HALESOWEN



Thursday, November 1, 2012

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Unused car parks could be replaced

UNDER-used car parking spaces could be earmarked for new development as part of the regeneration of Halesowen town centre, an action plan for the area has revealed.

The Halesowen Area Action Plan has been drawn up to help guide new investment, identifying where new shops, homes and leisure developments will be located.

Sites around the town

Sites around the town centre have been earmarked for regeneration. The plan says there is a surplus of car parking spaces in the town and some could make way for above and businesses. for shops and businesses.

One suggested site is office block Trinity Point and the High Street car park, which Dudley Council officers say is under-used at the moment.

the moment.

They are promoting it for retail, leisure and restaurant uses but some shortstay car parking should remain if the multi-storey car park was to be pulled down. Among the other sites is the Pool Road car park, owned by the council, which bosses say is suitable for retail development.

The plan says: "The reuse of vacant upper floors in a town centre location is one way of helping a town to

way of helping a town to become a living place 24 hours a day."

Merry Hill to open longer

VISITORS to Dudley's Merry Hill shopping centre will be able to shop for longer in the run up to Christmas, bosses say.

Christmas, bosses say.

The shopping centre has extended its evening and weekend opening hours for the festive period.

From Monday, it will be open until 10pm on weekdays and until 8pm on Saturdays. The centre will be open until 5pm on Sundays.

Merry Hill marketing manager, Kelly Reed, said:
"They hoped the move would give customers move convenience."

CUTS AT COUNCIL T EVERYONE

by Heather Large

PARKING charges will rise, youth services will be slashed and some home care for the elderly could be withdrawn as part of a multi-million pound cost-cutting budget proposed by Dudley Council.

Council leader Councillor Dave Sparks said the authority had been forced to make savings and was determined to minimise the impact on services. "Unfortunately we are in a financial straitjacket and we are having to do things that we really don't want to do. The government's policy on local government expenditure is forcing councils to make cuts," he said.

Job losses

certain says

finance chief

THE finance chief of Dudley Council said job losses were inevitable as the authority looks to cut its budget and

Chiefs have announced a three-year savings programme and a voluntary redundancy programme is expected to be approved this week.

be approved this week. Cabinet member for finance Councillor Pete Lowe said it was too early to say how many posts would be affected by the latest cuts but is certain that people will be lose their jobs.

But he added: "It is inevitable that there will be job losses but we will do

all we can to keep these to a mini-mum."

Meanwhile, Dudley Performing Arts, which runs music and dance con-

certs and classes, is now facing further

make massive savings.

Parks and streets will not be maintained as often and garden waste will go uncollected for five months of the year, under the plans to save almost £22 mil-

lion over three years.

It comes on top of more than £30m which has been slashed since 2010, and which has seen 487 voluntary redundancies and 74 compulsory redundancies at the authority. Further jobs are at risk with a volun-

tary redundancy programme expected to be approved next week in a bid to keep the number of compulsory redundancies to a minimum.

The council has announced a three year savings programme with services for children and elderly among those

Landfill

The proposals include introducing wheelie bins for household waste to slash landfill costs and shortening the collec-

tion period for garden waste.

Councillor Sparks said the authority had been forced to make sayings and was determined to minimise the impact on

The figures highlight savings of £10.7m to be made next year, a further £4.8m the following year and £6.3m in 2015/16.

The proposals to reduce budgets would see parking charges in the borough increase by 20 per cent in 2013 and they by a further 10 per cent in 2014.

There are also plans to slash the number of long-term care beds for the elderly while bere are a series event against a slash by

certs and classes, is now facing further funding cuts.

The service will no longer hold public events, if cost-cutting plans are given the go-ahead.

Last year DPA was hit by funding cuts forcing it to cancel two major music festivals, which traditionally attracted up to 5,000 people each.

The latest cuts announced by the authority will see the arts body lose £178,000 of its funding in 2013/14. while home care services could also be cut back.

"Youth services for 13-19 year olds could be "significantly" reduced and revamped.

Finley's first with FA Cup night



From left, father Steven Slimm, Finley with the cup and mother Kate

Exclusive by Will Ackermann

Will Ackermann

A YOUNG football fan from Halesowen has won the FA Cup – at least for a night. Finley Slimm is the first person in the country to win a sleepover with the famous trophy. Aston Villa fan Finley, aged seven, a pupil at Tenterfields Primary School, Halesowen won the chance to keep the trophy overnight on Monday after entering a price draw held by the Football Association.

His father Steven, aged 45, of Sunbury Road, said it had been a "fantastic surprise". He added: "Heading down to the FA Cup Trophy Tour and having our picture with the FA Cup was unbelievable, but having it in our own home for the night was truly magical, a once-in-a-lifetime experience that we'll always remember."

The trophy is touring cities across the UK

The trophy is touring cities across the UK to introduce a new generation to the world's oldest domestic football competition.

Three more opportunities to take it home are available to children under 12.



Grenade found in wardrobe clearout

DOZENS of people were evacuated from their homes when a Second World War grenade was found by a widow sorting out some of her husband's belongings. Bomb disposal teams arrived to assist in the evacuation of up to 12 homes, in Coppice Lane, Quarry Bank, after the discovery on Monady.

ady.
Widow Maureen Chance

ady.
Widow Maureen Chance found the explosive inside a box while she was clearing out a wardrobe of her late husband Leslie's possessions at her home in Birch Avenue.
Mrs Chance, aged 70, carried the grenade in her shopping trolley to show relatives' living in nearby Coppice Lane.
She said: "I was a bit shocked by it all as I'm not sure how Leslie had it in the first place – plus it had been there for a while as he died 12 years ago."

there for a while as he died 12 years ago." Her niece Rachael Guest said: "I thought 'What is that' as it was quite heavy and had gone a bit rusty but it still had the pin in it." Police officers arrived at the scene at around 7pm within minutes of them phoning an advice line.

Miss Guest, aged 38, placed the grenade in the back garden of the house on the instruction of explosives

the instruction of explosives experts. Police evacuated homes within around 330ft perimeter as a precaution

Family flee

A FATHER and his three children fled as a blaze ripped through the loft of their house in Quarry Bank. The fire severely damaged the roof space and led to the execution for the damaged.

the roof space and led to the evacuation of next door.
 It is thought to have been caused by faulty wiring to a spotlight on the landing of the semi-detached house in Hordern Crescent, at about 8.30pm on Tuesday.
 Householder Kieron Jewess, aged 41, and his children, Ethan, aged two, Mia, eight, and Tyler, 11, were watching television when their alarm went off.

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Have you got a story or an event you want covered? The Chronicle and the Express & Star have a team of reporters covering Halesowen who can help:

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Scrapyard blaze hits train services

A BLAZE ripped through a scrap metal yard in Coseley, causing dis-ruption to mainline train services as plumes of smoke drifted across railvay tracks

Up to 200 tons of scrap metal was alight at Geo Johnson (Metals) scrap merchants, in Havacre Lane, near the railway station on Monday. Trains were forced to divert from Coseley as smoke billowed across the tracks. In total, two train serv-

ices between Wolverhampton and Birmingham were cancelled and five diverted to other stations.

Residents saw flames shooting 20ft into the night sky as the pile of scrap and car parts caught alight at around 8.40pm.

Police closed Havacre Road between Darkhouse Lane and Anchor Road close to a railway bridge, while dozens of firefighters from Bilston, Dudley and Tipton

blaze. "It was a very well developed fire when we arrived with smoke and flames going very high into the sky," he said. "We were able to stop the fire escalating," he said.

the hre escalating," he said.
Firefighters remained at the scene for eight hours. The cause of the blaze is still being investigated.
Train operator London Midland asked travellers to use rail tickets on the Midland Metro or buses between Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

£3m canal exhibition centre plans unveiled

A £3 MILLION education, exhibition and her itage centre could be built by Dudley Canal Trust under new plans. The two-storey building, called The Portal, which would be sited at the canal tunnel entrance at Todds End, would outline the Black Country's industrial past.

200 tons of

waste gone

MORE than 200 tons of waste has been shifted from a towering rubbish mound overlooking homes in Brier-

ey Hill in one week, a court

Judge Stephen Oliver-Jones QC extended an injunction made on October

injunction made on October 19 restricting waste process-ing on the site.

The defendants were also ordered to clear the waste at the front part of the site to ground level by December 7.

This will stay in place until a

The top floor of the centre would provide access from the boat trips car park off Birmingham New Road.

A lift would be installed to

enable people to get to and from the towpath and visitor embarkation wharf.

embarkation wharf.

A swing bridge would also be installed to enable visitors from the Black Country Living Museum on the opposite side of the canal to access the ticket office, trip boats and heritage and learning centre.

A planning application for the scheme has been lodged with Dudley Council and a bid for Heritage Lottery cash to help fund the project has also been submitted.

Project manager David

nas also been submitted. Project manager David Trevis-Smith said if every-thing goes according to plan, work will get under way on the building in October next year and it will be ready to welcome visitors in summer 2014.

heard
The Environment Agency is locked in a legal battle with bosses at Refuse Derived Fuel Ltd over the pile, which once topped 40ft.
A survey was carried out at the site last week to establish the height of the pile.
The High Court, sitting in Birmingham, heard the waste ranged from 20ft to 25ft high in place.
Judge Stephen Oliverwelcome visitors in summer 2014.
"This is something Dudley Canal Trust has been working on, with partners, for a quite a number of years," he

said.

"The building will be a great addition for Dudley Canal Trust."

"This is something that Dudley Canal Trust has been working on, with partners, for a quite a number of years. The building will be a great addition for Dudley Canal Trust."

Tens of thousands of people visit the network of canal tunnels every year. The canal trust is inviting mem-

tunnels every year. The canal trust is inviting members and supporters to make donations to the scheme. For information visit www.dudleycanaltrust.org.uk

Helen's hair hacked for charity



Helen Barrett, who works at Asda in Halesowen, having her head shaved for charity by colleague and friend Thomas Skidmore

A SUPERMARKET worker has Helen said the cause was close shed her locks to raise hundreds to her heart as her mum, Anne,

of pounds for a cancer charity. Helen Barrett went under the razor at the Halesowen branch of Asda on Saturday to bring in the funds for charity Tickled

died of breast cancer last year. She said: "I am really pleased with the amount of money raised and any more donations would be very welcome." Visit Helen's Just Giving page

The 32-year-old, of Stour-bridge, has raised nearly £550. drive the state of this page bridge, has raised nearly £550. barrett1



History buff and ex-head dies, 81

A FORMER headteacher, author and historian renowned for his knowledge of the region's past has died,

Tributes have been paid Tributes have been paid to Trevor Genge, of Brownswall Road, Sedgley, who died peacefully on October 5. His heartbroken family paid tribute to a kind, intelligent and charming man who would be greatly missed. He leaves behind children Jenny, David and Alison and four grandchildren. His

four grandchildren. His wife, Margaret, died two

wife, Margaret, died two years ago.

Mr Genge was born in Lanesfield and started his career at engineering firm John Thompson before training to be a teacher.

He started work at Alder Coppice Primary School in Sedgley in the late-1960s before moving to the Bramford School where he

ford School where he became headteacher.

became headteacher.
He also worked at Lanes-field Primary School, again as head, before his retire-ment in the late-1990s.
He was a dedicated histo-rian and in 1984 was a founding member of Sedgley Local History Society.

Local History Society.

Mr Genge served as chairman of the group for more than two decades.

Church firs facing chop

SEVENTEEN fir trees will be chopped down at a Dudley church under new plans to allow more light to reach a garden of rest

a garden of rest.

An application has been made for permission to fell the trees at Holy Trinity Church in Amblecote.

Three letters of objection have been received by Dudley Council, including one from a former vicar at the church, but there have also been three letters supporting the proposals. ing the proposals.

They have been recom-mended for approval by the authority's dev control committee development

Award for band

A BAND from Dudley has won an award for their w on the club scene.

on the club scene.

Covers group Flying
Colours won Band of the Year
at the Birmingham Entertainments Secretaries Council awards. The band started
20 years ago at the old Sir
Gülbert Claughton School, Blowers Green Road.



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thefts of mobiles

THIEVES are stealing around 500 expensive iPhone and BlackBerry mobiles every month in the West Midlands, police have revealed.

revealed.
Pickpockets are cruising busy pubs, clubs and shopping centres, looking for opportunities to snatch devices, officers say.

Police have now launched crackdown ahead of the

a crackdown ahead of the festive season when more phones are purchased and venues become busier. Figures from West Mid-lands Police show an average of almost 500 iPhones and BlackBerry devices are stolen every month.

month.

Officers say this amounts to around 75 per cent of all phone thefts reported.

Staffordshire Police said 1,454 mobile phones were stolen between April and September – an average of 242 per month. This included 310 iPhones and 277 BlackBerry phones.

West Midlands officers have now launched a new crackdown with an aware-

crackdown with an aware-

crackdown with an aware-ness campaign ahead of the Christmas period.

They say the operation is timely in light of the recent launch of the new Apple iPhone 5, worth at least £529.

£1m work is completed

A £1 million scheme to replace outdated facilities at a Dudley crematorium has been completed. New cremators have been

been completed.

New cremators have been installed at Gornal Wood Cemetery and Crematorium, in Chase Road, during the six-month improvement to bring the site into line with emission regulations.

Two computers have been

Two cremators have been installed, one of which will also accommodate larger coffins.

coffins.

The site's chapel has also been decorated. The crematorium will return to full opening from November 5, after a restricted service.

Fungi fun time

THERE'S a chance to discover what lies in the undergrowth at a Dudley nature reserve this weekend.

A fungi foray will take place on November 3 at The Leasowes, Halesowen, led by expert Nick Williams.

The walk will be starting 2.30 and finishes at at 2.30 4.30pm.

Places need to be booked on 01384 814642.

Targeting Camra round table to fight for King Arthur



The King Arthur pub in Dudley

REAL ale campaigners are opposing an application to flatten the King Arthur pub in Dudley.

The move has shocked locals, with

some saying the building should be pre-

served.

Anthony Hitchmough, pub preservation officer for Dudley and South
Staffordshire Campaign for Real Ale
(Camra), has written to Dudley Council
saying he believes the pub, on the corner
of Priory Road and Birmingham New
Road, should not be demolished.

It was built in the 1920s and was a
roadhouse, attracting mostly customers

planning permission for a 70-bedroom

In his letter, Mr Hitchmough says: "Why demolish it, when planning permission to extend and provide accommo-

mission to extend and provide accommodation has been granted?

"Dudley is short of accommodation."
A notice has been put up at the site informing people that an application to demolish the pub has been submitted. It is not yet known whether another use for the site has been found.
Ward councillor Alan Finch has already spoken of his shock at hearing the

news, saying it was "a shame". Owner Amrinder Sandhu was granted planning permission for the £3.5 million hotel project in April 2010. Work had been expected to start that summer. Mr Sandhu said at the time he

summer. Mr Sandhu said at the time he needed to develop the site to supplement pub income and to prevent the building from falling into disrepair.

But in September 2010, the pub was put up for sale with estate agent Christie & Co. It was later withdrawn from their books.

Mr Sandhu was unavailable for comment

Talented

locals in

night of

awards

LOCAL entertainers took to

LOCAL entertainers took to the stage at an awards cere-mony celebrating the club scene's top talent. Six acts won awards from the Mid-Counties Enter-tainment Council at Coseley Working Mens Club and belted out hits spanning five decades

decades.

All had been voted for by council members following shows over the last year.

The youngest winner was 16-year-old Kellie Magee, who was named best new-comer. The Halesowen College student lives in Coselev.

Coseley. Stuart James, 35, won best male vocalist just months after returning home to Oldbury from per-

forming in Memphis and Las

vegas.
Sisters Helen Deakin, 29, and Theresa Smith, 39, of Tipton, won best duo.
Best female vocalist was Sammie Lou Cooper.
The 32-year-old, of Brierley Hill, spent five years as a singer in Benidorm and worked at Joe Longthorne's bar in Blackpool.
Winners of best trio for the third year running were Beyond Words, made up of married couple Kay and John Davies and Bimal Jangra. Paul David, 39, won best all-round entertainer.

gas. Sisters Helen Deakin, 29,

MP helping with research on EU

A WEST Midland MP is elping Conservative arty research into how Party research into how UK financial services are affected by EU regula-

As a member of the Fresh Start Project, Wyre Forest MP Mark Garnier will contribute to the "Manifesto for Change".

The document will set out recommendations for out recommendations for reassessing the UK's rela-tionship with the EU, potentially forming part of the Tory party's next elec-tion manifesto.

Glassworks' fate is in the balance

A FORMER 18th century glassworks factory in Dudley could be saved from demolition under plans to carry out a new assessment

carry out a new assessment of its architectural value.

An application to knock down the buildings, which were part of the former Platts Glassworks in Platts Road, Stourbridge, has been lodged with Dudley Council.

But council planners want to put a block on the plans to allow more time to investigate whether the site is of "historic significance".

Writer who has a touch of glass

A WRITER, glass expert and broadcaster from Stourbridge will showcase his latest book at an event expected to attract thou-sands of collectors.

sands of collectors.

The National Glass Fair will be at the National Motorcycle Museum, Coventry Road, Solihull, between 10.30am and 4pm on November 11, Graham Fisher will be selling copies of the 2012 Portland Vase Project.

Village hall holding Christmas bazaar

A CHRISTMAS bazaar will be held at Stourton Village Hall, off Bridgnorth Road, on December 1. Doors will open to the public at 9.30am.

Traders still have time to take up a table at the event. They are asked to call 01384 872073 or 07801 929034. Tables are £10 in advance.

Nearly new sale

Nearly new Sale

NCT's Stourbridge and
Halesowen branch is
organising a nearly new
sale and baby fair on
November 24 at Thorns
Leisure Centre, Stockwell
Avenue, Quarry Bank,
from 11am to 1pm. Visit
www.nct.org.uk/branches
/stourbridge-halesowen.

Lifetime pet ban on brother and sister as dog destroyed

squalid conditions have been told they cannot keep animals again. RSPCA officers found Lawrence and Shirley Anne Griffin's dog Rocky lying on the living room floor covered in its own mess.

They were called after the pair were evicted from their previous address in Chestnut Drive, Dudley, on January 11.

Magistrates heard the 15-year-old was treated by a vet but had to be put down as the declade only hear plate.

Mrs Gaynor Sutton, pros-

the dog had only been able to move its head and had a tumour on its stomach.

tumour on its stomach.

Five snakes, two cats, three birds, two lizards, a gerbil and two mice were also at the home.

Mr Griffin, aged 57, and Miss Griffin, 55, of Stourbridge Road, Brierley Hill, each received a 12-week jail term suspended for 12 months and 150 hours unpaid work.

Snakes

Snakes

They were told to pay court costs of £779 – a total of £1,558 between them, alongside the lifetime ban. Other animals, including snakes, were kept. Although their cages had not been cleaned they had access to

cleaned they had access to food and water and were in a "reasonable condition". The pair previously admitted causing unneces-sary suffering to the dog and to not providing a suitable environment for the animal which was burionic

Mrs Gaynor Sutton, prosecuting on behalf of the RSPCA, said: "The dog was lying in the living room just behind the door. It was on its left side and was at first sight unrecognisable.

"The officer checked the dog's stomach and could count the bones and ribs.
"The house was squalid

The house was squalid

"The house was squalid and filthy. The carpet was covered in general filth.
"A police officer described the smell as the worst he had ever smelled."

Mrs Sutton said vets found the dog was dehydrated and had arthritis.

Mr Tim Gascovne defend-

drated and had arthritis.

Mr Tim Gascoyne, defending, said: "They have taken responsibility for what they have done and pleaded guilty at the earliest opportunity. They did not know about the tumour and say the dog was given food. They did not know why the animal was losing weight."

Miss Griffin tried to clean

Miss Griffin tried to clean the dog but said it had growled at her.

A Midland MP is asking for his constituents' views on same

A Midiand Mr is asking for his constituents views on same sex marriage as he launches his first online survey. Peter Luff, MP for Mid-Worcestershire, which covers areas near Kidderminster, said he was inspired to address the issue after several contacts with people. He said: 'I have had passionate emails and letters on both sides of the argument, with a significant majority against.

introducing same sex marriage. The survey can be found at: www.surveymonkey. ${\rm com/s/PY8VZRV}$



From, left, Kellie Magee, Stuart James, Sammie Lou, top, Theresa Smith and Helen Deakin aka Helesa, Bimal Jangra, Kay Davis, John Davis, Paul David

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HOMECLAD



OF PETER

AS the US elections approach, the master of one-liners Milton Jones explained on Arthur Smith's Balham Bash (Radio 4) how close his own father came to being President of the United States. He was an undertaker on an

army base. A barrack embalmer.

MORE strangely-modern lines from Downton Abbey (ITV) where Ethel the maid says: "I'll give it a go" and Matthew declares: "I've been on a steep learning curve." Coming next: on being released from prison, Mr Bates says: "Freedom, like it's wicked, innit?"

THE organiser of a bonfire party next to a pile-up on the M5 had been charged with seven counts of manslaughter. I wonder how many November 5 bonfire organisers have resigned since this story broke a few days ago.

00000000

OUR recent correspondence about people's attitudes towards folk in wheelchairs reminded me of Ron Burns of Tipton. He was an amputee diabetic with heart trouble yet he was one of the funniest natural comedians I've ever met. He died in 1999 and in the final months of his life he was forced to use a wheelchair.

He noted that when he sat in it he was just 4ft 2ins tall, which inspired his bitter little poem about meeting someone he knew perfectly well but who failed to recognise him

nise nim.
It began: "We met this man in Bilston, Well, my daughter did. He didn't recognise me; They never do when you're four feet two." I dare say plenty of people in wheelchairs know the feeling.

AND now, a sneak preview from the television schedules for this time next year, October 2013: Newsnight asks whether significant facts were overlooked in Panorama's investigation into the Guardian investigation into the Daily Mail investigation into the Blue Peter investigation into the One Show investigation into the Panorama investigation into the Newsnight investigation of the Jimmy Savile scandal. In-depth analysis by Zippy from Rainbow.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Free parking on cards n run up to Christmas

offering free parking in the run up to Christmas in an effort to attract more shoppers to the High Street. Charges will be suspended on selected evenings and Saturdays in December.

Dudley, Cannock and Wyre Forest Councils have pledged to offer free festive parking while Wolverhamp-ton, Walsall and Sandwell Councils are considering their ortions

their options.

There will be free Satur-

tive for shoppers to visit the borough on the run up to

Christmas.

FIVE Dudley borough clubs for children with disabilities their options.

There will be free Saturday car parking on 40 car parks across Dudley that would normally charge on December 10, 17 and 24.

Charges will also be suspended on one evening to coincide with late night shopping and the Christmas lights switch on in Dudley, Stourbridge, Halesowen and Brierley Hill.

Fees in Dudley usually range from 40p for an hour to over £2.50 for over three hours, while in Cannock they range from 90p an hour up to £11.50 for six hours depending on the location.

Dudley transport boss Councillor Judy Foster said: "The suspension of car park charges is seen as a goodwill gesture on behalf of the council and an added incentive for shoppers to visit the borough on the run up to have received a glowing report after an inspection by Ofsted.

The clubs, run by Dudley Council's youth service, are at Greenhill Youth Centre, Russells Hall Neighbour-hood Centre, Lower Gornal Youth Centre, the Source, Wordsley and Valley Road Youth Centre, Lye.

The clubs are for young people with learning disabilities and include partnership support from Kids Orchard, Autistic Parent Support Group and Autism Outreach.

Outreach.
Successful grant applications have enabled four of the centres to add sensory rooms, new equipment and extend the holiday activity

Ofsted inspectors visited the centres in July to observe activities and to interview staff, young people and their parents.

Time for free tickets, oh yes it is



It could end up costing
Dudley Council £20,000 in
lost revenue.

Panto star Nigel Ellacott visits Dudley Castle and Zoo which is
sponsoring the dress rehearsal of Jack and the Beanstalk

free tickets are being given away for the dress rehearsal of this year's pan-tomime at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre, Jack and The Beanstalk.

Dudley Zoo is on the lookout for worthy charities and community organisations that would like to attend on December 7.

The family will Loose feature Women presenter Hewson, Sherrie Hewson, veteran entertainer Keith Harris, plus the lovable Orville, with Nigel Ellacott joining the line-up as the distinctive dame. Dudley Zoo is sponsoring the dress rehearsal and wants groups interested in attending to get in touch. Sherrie

touch.

Call 01384 215313 or email julia.mar-keting@dudleyzoo.o

Former teacher collected child porn

A FORMER teacher has admitted having almost 100,000 indecent images of children on memory sticks.

children on memory sticks.
Matthew Bullas, formerly
a PE teacher at Dudley's
Castle High School, downloaded photographs and
videos from the internet
while in a "depression".
The 32-year-old, of Hamilton Drive, Stourbridge, was
arrested at his previous
address in Halesowen on
November 16 and computer
equipment was seized.
A total of 98,972 images
were found by officers

equipment was seized.

A total of 98,972 images were found by officers spread across five memory sticks. Bullas, who was sacked from the school, was sacked from the school, was sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week.

He was given a three-year community order with a requirement to attend the Internet Offenders Treatment Programme and given supervision. Bullas was also placed under a Sex Offender Prevention Order for 10 years and on the Sex Offenders Register for five years.

None of the images featured children at the school where he worked. Mr Danny Smith, defending, said his client was of previous good character.

"He had suffered a breakdown in his life which had vortexed into debt addepression," he said. "He had suffered the loss of a relationship and his grandparents and could not deal with this emotional burden."

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Hundreds pay their respects

HUNDREDS turned out to pay their final respects to a long-serving councillor and former mayor of Dudley who died earlier this month aged

79.

A service of thanksgiving and celebration for the life of Councillor Malcolm Knowles was held at St Thomas's Church, in Stourbridge. It followed an earlier private cremation service.

Residents, friends, civic dignitaries and Dudley Council workers filled the church in

workers filled the church in Market Street, last week to honour Councillor Knowles.

nonour Councillor Knowles.

Among those gathered
were Dudley's present mayor
Councillor Melvyn Mottram
and councillors from all
parties on the authority.
Classic cars, one of the fatherof-three's passions, were
parked up along the street by of-three's passions, were parked up along the street by friends before the service as a tribute.

The service was led by Councillor Knowles' friend

Councillor Knowles triend and fellow councillor Liz Walker who is a minister in the Diocese of Worcester.

It was Councillor Knowles' personal request she conduct the service. The gathering stood to sing Jerusalem as his family entered the church family entered the church before Councillor Walker gave an introduction.

Talking history

BELBROUGHTON History Society is hosting a talk, by David Clark, former Mayor of Worcester, on November

The event will start at 8pm at Belbroughton Church Hall.

The admission charge for the evening will be £2.50.

Traders relieved as roads reopen after major works

months of repair works have fully reopened bringing relief to traders who say they have lost thousands of pounds.

But temporary traffic lights along streets on the border of Halesowen and Rowley Regis will remain in place for the the next few days as the work is completed.

Coombs Road and Gorsty Hill Road were made one-way in April while South Staff Water and National Grid carried out the £500,000 project. Traders said takings had dropped by helf in that time.

Bosses said customers were being put off by a lack of parking and heavy traffic.

parking and heavy traffic.

They are now drawing up claims for compensation for the money lost in recent months.

Stephanie Cox, landlady of the Bell and Bear pub in Gorsty Hill Road, said: "There is still a backlog of traffic building up from the lights but it will make things much better now the road is two-way again.

"The problem now is making people realise that it is all one and how they can start coming aren,"

open and hope they can start coming again."

Bosses at the Olympia chip shop, Coombs Road were losing £500 a week and profits halved since work started.

Owner and mother-of-two Dalvinder Kaur said she was

relieved the road had opened again but said the works had wrecked" their business.

There are four-way temporary lights at the junction of Coombs Road, Haden Hill Road, Dudley Road and Furnace Hill.

Drivers have faced delays during rush hour but the council says disruption will be reduced as the phasing of the signals will be changed for the final 10 days of the work before it is completed around mid-November. Councillor Judy Foster, cabinet member for transport,

Councillor Judy Foster, cabinet member for transport, said: "The tullity works are progressing well. The one-way system on Coombs Road has been removed which has improved traffic flow in the area. The utility companies tell us they are due to complete all their work by mid November. We apologise to residents, business and motorists for any disruption caused."

ighter side of horror director's work



Museum assistant Barry Armstrong, looks at the work



Another piece of work on show



PREVIOUSLY unseen cartoons, paintings and illustrations by a Dudley-born film director have gone on display in his

by a Dudley-born film director have gone on display in his home town.

The exhibition, Horror in Hollywood: The James Whale story, includes images from a selection of more than 70 unseen pieces of work. They range from his time in the Holzminden camp during the First World War through to paintings he did in his retirement in California.

The pieces have been loaned to the museum by Whale's great-great niece, animator Cath Lloyd. The bulk of the work was kept in two suitcases in the attic at Cath's grandmother's house.

Whale who died in 1957 acrd 67 came from humble

mother's house.

Whale, who died in 1957 aged 67, came from humble beginnings in Park Hill Street, Buffery Park, to become one of cinema's most influential directors. His work included such classics as Frankenstein and the Invisible Man in the 1930s. One of six children born to a blast furnaceman and a nurse, he attended Kate's Hill Board School, Bayliss Charity School and Dudley Blue Coat School. His brothers went to work in heavy industry, but he was not strong enough so worked as a cobbler's apprentice.

The exhibition at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery runs until January 12.

Three cottages set to be restored

THREE historic carpet weavers' cottages which date back more than 200 years will finally be restored under new plans.

restored under new plans. There were fears the homes, which are empty in Kidderminster's Horsefair, would have to be demolished because of escalating repair (osts. But a project has been launched by the Worcestershire Building Preservation Trust to preserve the homes for future generations. Numbers 20, 21 and 22, known as the Weavers' Cottages, are Grade II-listed. Grade II-listed.

Police declaring war on burglars

POLICE in Wyre Forest have declared war on bur-glars with a raft of initia-tives aimed at targeting persistent thisyes

tives aimed at targeting persistent thieves.

The police chief heading the anti-burglary team says Operation Citadel will ensure criminals are caught early before they target other victims.

The drive includes a crime shop which has been manned in Kidderminster's Swan Centre and which focuses on burgla-

which focuses on burgla

Society open day

CLENT History Society will hold its annual open day this month.

It will take place at Clent Parish Hall, Church Avenue, on November 11 from 11am

Entry costs £2. Children get in free.

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Whole Fresh Ribeye of Beef	£6.99lb - £15.41 kilo
Whole Fresh Sirloin Beef	£6.99lb - £15.41 kilo
Whole Fresh Scotch Rumps	£4.79lb - £10.56 kilo
Whole Fresh Topside Beef	£2.99lb - £6.60 kilo
Whole Small Silverside Beef	
Whole Small Top Rump Beef	
5lb Diced Shin Beef	
5lb Extra Lean Diced Scotch Beef	
5lb Chuck Steak	£2.78 lb - £6.13 kilo
5lb Mince Beef	
Whole Fresh Pork Loins (rind on/off)	£2.00lb - £4.41 kilo
Whole Boneless Pork Legs	
Whole Bone-in Pork Loin	
Whole Spare Ribs	£1,49lb - £3,28 kilo
Whole Bone-in Shoulders	£1.18lb - £2.60 kilo
5lb Loin Lamp Chops	£2.99lb - £6.59 kilo
5lb Lamb Rump Steaks (minted/plain)	£3.99lb - £8.80 kilo
5lb Diced Lamb	
5lb Minced Lamb	£2.99lb - £6.71 kilo
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5lb Pk Rindless Short Back Bacon	£8 50lb n/nack

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Scouts' plans rescued by kindness of local people

FORMER Scouts, businesses and locals have rallied round to raise

locals have rallied round to raise cash and donate equipment to a Dudley troop left "gutted" when burglars raided their HQ.

The break-in at 1st Bromley-Pensnett Scout group's hut in September scuppered the youngsters' plans for an autumn camp. But, thanks to the generosity of the local community – including donations from elderly ex-Scouts – they will be off on a Christmas camp instead. Nearly 40 people who were upset to hear about their predicament have donated money or goods.

"We've been very touched by the response, especially as this is quite a deprived area," said Belinda Garratt, Beaver Scout leader and wife of Scout leader Andrew Garratt.

Beaver Scott leader and wife of Scott leader Andrew Garratt.

"We've been given a gazebo, eight new tents, axes, a camping cooker, items to sell at a car boot sale, and several cheques, including one for £1,000, another for £250, one for

£200 and a couple for £100.
"Some of the donations have come from "Some of the donations have come from elderly people in the area who have scouting backgrounds – and they've been very generous. One man even gave us a new door to replace the one damaged in the break-in and came to fit it for us."

The troop has now invited all of the contributors to a special evening to thank them at the headquarters in Bromley, Pensnett, on November 23 at 6pm. More than 60 Scouts at the group were left "gutted" after burglars broke in.

Milk message from MP

AN MP spoke of the importance of young-sters drinking milk when she visited a play-

group. Margot James, MP for Stourbridge, spoke to bosses at Withymoor Playgroup in Brierley Hill, where children are encouraged to sit together on a "milk break". School milk is free for children in daycare or primary education under the age of five.

Youngsters show talent



Performers in Areley Kings Got Talent including winner Holly Brown front second from right, dressed as a chimney sweep

CHILDREN in Stourport proved that they'd got talent at a competition held over two evenings at Areley Kings Village Hall.

The Areley Kings Got Talent contest attracted 22 acts, aged seven to 11, who sang, danced or played an instrument.

instrument.

The performers appeared in front of a packed house of parents and friends and gave the four experienced judges a challenge in choosing just 10 performers for the finals.

The finalists then performed in front of another packed audience on

October 12, when singer and dancer Holly Brown, aged 10, took first place, winning the Jim Perry Cup and £30.

and £30.

Singer Hannah Law, aged 11, was second and singer Mackenzie Lauren Mapp, 10, third.

Ten-year-old Alex Mills, who also entered as a singer, took the Graham Baldwin Cup for the best performer of the opposite gender to the winner – and Ella Kendrick carried off the Hazel Yates Cup for best seven-year-old. The event was supported by local organisations.









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Time to think big over theatre

ATTENTION has been drawn to the proposals of The Friends of the Hippodrome to renovate this former theatre with a view to restoring it.

As I understand it, plans to proceed with the necessary financial arrangements, restoration works and theatrical consultations are in hand and that cal consultations are in hand and that the cartain celebrities have already at the seems an alternative proposal for certain celebrities have already expressed their support. Whilst Dudley Council has a demoli-

whist Dudley Council has a demoition order imposed on the property no meaningful application for funding can proceed. In the meantime, the matter is at a standstill.

I do not know whether removal of the

It seems an alternative proposal for this land, at one of the gateways to Dudley, is to construct a car park. There is, of course, already a large car park to the rear of the property adjoin-ing Dudley Zoo.

Dudley Hippodrome is arguably the largest building of its kind in the

country and no doubt other cities and towns envy Dudley and would wish to have something similar.

The whole of the Black Country lacks a theatre of this dimension. This is a non-political issue.

Is it not time for the councillors of Dudley to think less parochially and vote to remove the order which stands in the way of progress before the bull-dozers move in? dozers move in? Now is the time to think big and to

look to the future of Dudley.
BRIAN TURNER

Gervase Drive Dudley

BBC still a world best in spite of

criticisms MY word, yet another anti BBC hissy fit by the boy Rhodes because he thinks it is occasionally biased against his Tory govern-

against his Tory government.

In his piece on October 23 he couldn't bear the BBC Radio 4 Today on October 20, because they dared to mention Labour criticism of Cameron's leadership, even though many of our own party don't rate him.

They also mentioned "Plebgate" and the appalling Andrew Mitchell. This reminded me of Rhodes fury at the exposure of the Murdoch and Rebecca Brookes phone hacking

of the Murdoch and Rebecca Brookes phone hacking scandal and her close friend-ship with the Camerons. The BBC is a world best, despite trash like Easten-ders and too many unfunny comedians. I will always trust Paxman and col-leagues to get the balance right

right.
JOHN SAVAGE

LETTERS to the Editor

Halesowen Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

Dudlev.chrons@

E-MAIL

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

We have done our bit now you do yours

SO according to certain sectors of society, predominately the younger generations, we old ones should contribute more to the Treasury by a) working longer; b) losing free TV licences; c) losing winter fuel allowances and d) losing our

licences; c) losing winter fuel allowances and d) losing our bus passes etc.

I would like to remind those of the younger generation that us old ones, in general, have worked for more than 50 years to earn sufficient to get married, bring up a family without child benefit for the first one and then a generous £8 for the next one. Contributed all our working life by paying NI and into a company pension which I could ill afford at the time as my wife and I were bringing up a young family of three so we went without. Had my career interrupted by two years National Service on active service in the Canal Zone, £gypt protecting Great Britain's and the free world's interests. Have done unpaid work for the benefit of my fellow man by serving as a parish councillor for years, setting up a Neighbourhood Watch and serving as chairman on the South Staffs Crime Prevention Panel. What more do the younger generation expect of us? We have done our bit, now it is up to you.

ow it is up to you. REG SEGGAR, Swinforge Way, Swindon

Let's fight back over high call charging

WHEN is someone eventually gonna fight back against these stupidly high priced telephone numbers which we are then deliberately placed on hold to push the cost of the call up even further?

My girlfriend had a

further?

My girlfriend had a mobile phone bill of £125 because of the calls to the Department of Works and

Pensions.

All she was trying to do was sort her mom's claim out after her father had died out after her father had died and also try to sort her daughter's government training course out. She can't afford to pay the bill. It's always the poor unfor-tunates who get penalised. Calls to an ever-decreas-

ing quality of government customer service should be paid for by them for their incompetence and not by

the claimant.
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ls Trading Estate, Talbots Lane Level Street, Brierley Hill

Fresh bid is Help is on the cards launched to get 140 homes b

DEVELOPERS have launched a bid plans for 140 homes, a craft village and nursing home on a historic former brickworks approved at the second attempt after they were thrown out by council chiefs.

were thrown out by co.

A planning inquiry is being held into the proposals for Baggeridge Brickworks, Gospel End, Sedgley, David Wilson Homes and site owners Weinerberger have appealed against South Staffordshire Council's decision to refuse planning permission earlier this year.

Councillors had argued the development would be too large for the village – but developers claim it would

NEWS

too large for the village – but developers claim it would boost the area's economy and attract new visitors.

The applicants are hoping to convince the Planning Inspectorate to overturn the council's original decision and give the go-ahead.

The inputiry has beard

and give the go-ahead.
The inquiry has heard
that the plans go against the
Black Country Core Strategy, which lays out guidelines for major building
projects in the region.
Mr Satnam Choongh, representing the council, said
the document made it

by Adam Burling

"clear" there should be no new housing developments other than in "major vil-lages", which he says does not include Gospel End.

not include Gospel End.
He argued, as the site lies
in green belt, it could only
get planning permission
under "special circumstances".
However, the developers
claim the land is among
green belt sites that the
council had said could be
built on in the future.
"We have found a sustain-

built on in the future.

"We have found a sustainable location where we can start a development that will have benefits for the area." said David Bridgwood, associate director for engineering firm Wardell Armstrong, on behalf of the applicants.

The plans include 12 craft workshops, a 60-bedroom nursing home and new road access from the A463.



Garry Sawers who has made the Christmas cards

A SIGNWRITER and supporter of under-threat Dudley Hippodrome has created a selection of dedicated Christmas cards to show his backing to the campaign to save it.

Tipton-born Garry Sawers, 54 has backed the bid to stop the former theatre from being demolished.

The colourful cards are decorated with a picture of the former theatre and two hippos standing in front of the building. Inside the card, the greeting says: "Wishing you a bostin' Christmas". Mr Sawers, of Pensnett said he wanted to do something to help with the campaign to reopen the building.

Petition

More than 10,000 people have now signed a petition calling for it to be saved and The Friends of the Hippodrome group is finalising a costed business plan for the future. Mr Sawers said: "The Hippodrome means a lot to people in Dudley, it is such a landmark. I just wanted to do my bit to help and I thought the Christmas cards would add a bit of festive cheer.

"If they prove popular I plan to create a range of different designs." Mr Sawers is asking for donations in return for the cards to go towards the campaign. He has even decorated the spare wheel on the back of his Honda CRV with the hippodrome design. To purchase Christmas cards contact Gaz at www.gazart.co.uk.







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Boss skimmed £20,000 in nursing home fraud

Mooch around studio



Mooch members – from left, Ross Syner, Harvey Champion, Mike Hobin and Greg Wallace

venue like this is needed. We want to put on original live bands for people in Stourbridge. There are a lot of local bands here but there is no clear

we re not looking to take on pubs in the area, we love pub gigs, we just want to offer people something dif-ferent."

A LIVE music venue and recording studio has opened in Stourbridge bringing 12 part-time and full-time

jobs.

Moochers Jailhouse has been created at the former Conservative Club building in New Road.

More than 100 people came on the opening night to watch performances from Wales band The Guns and Kidderminster band Mooch, which is the club's house band.

Co-director Ross Syner, aged 21.

Co-director Ross Syner, aged 21, id: "These are exciting times.

"We've been speaking to a lot of people from the area and they say a

nursing home raided savings to buy toiletries for residents while plundering £20,000 from its bank accounts.

Debt-ridden Tracy Bennett secretly moved almost £3,000 into a personal bank account to pay her bills and then fiddled the books to try and cover up the three-and-a-half month crime spree, a judge heard.

She forged signatures on receipts that suggested cash had gone on buying a specialist chair, solicitor's fees or other expenses for residents at Holbeche House.

The 40-year-old single mother of twin girls also syphoned off a further £17,545 paid by local authorities to cover the accommodation costs of people living at the home, Wolverhampton Crown court was told.

Bennett joined the staff at Holbeche House in 2008 and worked her way up to become in charge of the finances.

Mr Edward Soulsby, prosecuting, said: "When arrested, Bennett only admitted those offences that were incontrovertible and showed no remorse, blaming it all on her depression."

Bennett, of Broad Street, Kingswinford,

and showed no remorse, blaming it all on her depression."

Bennett, of Broad Street, Kingswinford, admitted two charges of fraud involving a total of £20,496 and was given a 42-week jail sentence suspended for two years.

Bennett may be forced to hand over money and other assets from a proceeds of crim hearing in February.

Mr Bernard Porter, defending, revealed at Wolverhampton Crown Court that £8,500 found in Bennett's account when the scam was uncovered had since been frozen.

DETECTIVES are hunting for a Stour-bridge man who is wanted for recall to

prison.
Donovan Taylor, aged 34, has not been complying with the terms of his licence and is believed to have continued to commit crine. He is a mixed race man, 5ft 10 ins with black hair. Call Dudley police on 101.

thinking

Police hunting criminal

local bands here but there is no clear circuit.

"A lot of bands have to go out to Birmingham to get a decent gig so this is about giving them something closer to home.

"We're lining up some good bands for the coming months so hopefully we'll get a lot of interest.

"We're not looking to take on pubs in the area we love muh dies we just



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Lieutenant Colonel Waterhouse

Memories of hospital are needed for project

ing the changing phases of The Beeches Training Centre and Penn Hospital will be held at Wolverhamp-

ton Art Gallery next month.

Local people are being asked to share their memories of the site to produce a book and memorial bank. produce a book and memorial bank. Situated on the Penn Road, The Beeches is an 18th century grade II listed building and was originally a gentlemen's residence.

During the nineteenth century, it was the home of Lieut. Col. Waterhouse who sold it to Francis Gibbons, one of the oldest and biscont products of the collect and biscont products.

biggest makers of locks and iron-

mongery.

In 1935, the house was purchased by Wolverhampton Royal

Hospital which converted it into a

Thoughout World War Two, patients at the Royal were evacuated to their homes and in 1941, the children's wards moved to the Penn

site. The first ward for seriously ill children opened at the Royal in 1951 and once patients showed signs of improvement, they were sent to The Beeches to recuperate.

Fresh air and sunlight from the large bay window is thought to have contributed to the children becoming well again and visitors walking down the Penn Road often men-tioned seeing patients shivering on the balcony. Young girls were given basic training to look after the children and lived on the top floor of the

Their duties included keeping them fed and amused, a hard task

them fed and amused, a hard task considering they were only children themselves.

The Beeches closed in 1989 but is noted for having looked after hundreds of children from Wolverhampton and surrounding areas suffering from serious illnesses such as Polio and Tuberculosis.

It was re-opened in 2004 as The Beeches Training and Education Centre, used for health and social care.

Centre, used for neath and social care. The art gallery project runs from November 17 until December 15. Anyone who would like to get involved should telephone 0121 612 8010.



A postcard of The Beeches for recuperating children to send to their parents





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Work to create £8.5m

health centre under way



Worcester Street Surgery GP Heidi Kerr, fellow GP Simon Carvell, Graham Dearn, Dr Steve Mann, Paul Maubach and surgery practice manager Cathryn Bateman see the work on the building get underway

Dudley foundry into an £8.5 million health centre is now officially

health centre is now officially under way.

Health bosses gathered at the former Foster, Rastrick and Company site, in Lowndes Road, Stourbridge, for a sod-cutting ceremony. The development, which will serve 26,000 patients, is being created by Worcester Street Medical Practice in partnership with Primary Health Properties PLC.

The ceremony marked the beginning of an 18-month project to create the new health centre. The facility is expected to open in early 2014.

Members of the practice were on hand along with officials from Dudley Primary Care Trust to see the first piece of earth being cut.

Care Trust to see the first piece of earth being cut.

The first phase of the scheme will see the former foundry cleaned up and unwanted items from within the building removed.

Conversion work will then begin.

Dr Carol Griffiths, executive partner at the Worcester Street practice, said both staff and patients were excited that the scheme would soon be a reality.

"We will soon have a state-of-the-art surgery which will offer a full range of GP services to 26,000 patients," she said.

"There will be an enhanced nursing suite, minor operations theatre and a gym and rehabilitation area. This is an exciting development which will be an important part of the regeneration of this part of Stourbridge."

The Poster and Rastrick building is known across the globe.

MP marks a milestone

ADUDLEY MP joined staff at a supermarket to celebrate one million donations being made to a charity appeal.

Stourbridge MP Margot James visited the Sainsbury's store, Sandringham Way, Withymoor, and learned about the Million Meal appeal, which encourages customers to donate food instore to the FareShare Charity. She praised the charity for its efforts.





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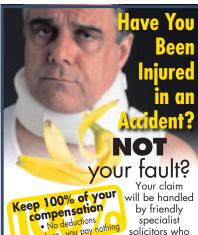
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Man with £11,000 drugs has been given jail term

A MAN caught with a haul of drugs worth £11,000 and a stun gun has been jailed for four-anda-half years.

a-half years.

Drug dealer Ryan Harper was arrested in March after police found the weapon in his car and drugs in his home.

He was released on bail and during that time officers returned to his home in Fairgreen Gardens, Pensnett, in July and found more illegal drugs. Mr Mark Rees, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court: "On March 30 this wear notine officers stomed March 30 this wear notine officers stomed March 30 this year, police officers stopped the defendant in his car.

"In that car they found a stun gun which could cause significant harm. Having arrested the defendant, officers searched his home address. They found substantial quantity of drugs with an overall street value of £11,000."

Officers seized cannabis, methadrone, cocaine and 1,656 diazepam tablets.

They also found digital scales and cling film used in the preparation of drugs with a view to selling it." In interview by police, former mechanic Harper said the drugs were for his own personal use and he was bailed.

When officers visited his home. มled. When officers visited his home on July 17

when onicers visited his home on July 17 they found more drugs including crack cocaine and £340. Harper, aged 22, previously admitted eight charges of possessing drugs with intent to supply and possessing a probibited weapor. prohibited weapon.
Mr Timothy Talbot-Webb, defending, said

his client had become a drug dealer as a result of falling into debts due to his own drug use. The court heard Harper had a £350-a-week cocaine habit at the time.

Beer in running for gong

A BEER brewed at Lye will be in the running for a national award in the new year. Worcester Sorcerer from Sadler's Ales will be contesting the category for bottled gold beers at the Society of Independent Brewers' national beer competition in Sheffield, York-shire, on March 13.

Hopping with delight



Louise and Daren Bale, owners of the Hop Pole Inn in Bewdley

A FAMILY-run pub in Bewdley has cooked up a storm to win two progious awards.

grous awards.

The Hop Pole Inn, on Cleobury
Road, has been named the winner of
the Taste of Worcestershire award
in recognition of its use and support

of local produce.

Chef Darren Bale came out on top in the Outstanding Contribution to

Food category. He and his wife Louise were also commended for their customer service. The awards were part of two separate competitions co-ordinated by tourism body Visit Worcestershire and lifestyle magazine Worcestershire Life. Mr Bale said: "To win two sought-after food awards really is one of the proudest moments of my career."



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Express & Star

GPs will support ambulance crews at emergency incidents across Worcestershire response, rather than as an out-of-hours GP

GPs will support ambulance crews at emergency incidents across Worcestershire under new plans.

Around 30 GPs from across the county, including Myre Forest, are going on shifts with West Midlands Ambulance Service until the spring.

Referred by the ambulance service, they will respond in their own cars to patients and provide them with urgent care that does not require a trip to A&E.

Health bosses say it will prevent patients having to go to hospital when they could be dealt with at home.

Dr Ameet Deshpande, who is joining the scheme, said: "I am an out-of-hours GP at the moment so this will be similar to what I currently do, but here I will be with West

response, rather than as an out-of-hours GP who have their own work to do as well. "I expect to deal with things like back pain, renal and colic cases and the elderly who have pre-existing conditions such as arthritis who need respite care, to stabilise asthmatics, or deal with social cases and mental health issues which are inappropriate to take to A&E. I hope to do a better response for them." service for them."

Jonathan Leach, medical director at NHS

Jonathan Leach, medical director at NHS Worcestershire said: "The three clinical commissioning groups in Worcestershire are spending tens of thousands of pounds on this major initiative and it's brilliant. "There are 30 GPs interested in taking part," added Mr Leach.

GPs to work with crews supporting emergencies DELAYS have hit plans for a proposed multi-million traffic congestion in the area. Morrisons' plan delay existing car park expanded. Fear proposed multi-million traffic congestion in the area.

expansion of a Kingswinford supermarket, as access from a busy road is still being discussed.

Morrisons wants to demolish its existing store in Stallings Lane and replace it with a 40,000 sq ft development, creating a total of 70 jobs.

ment, creating a total of 1000s.

Proposals were submitted to
Dudley Council in May but have still
to be discussed by the authority's
development control committee.

Officials said talks were still ongoing over the road access.

This is after concerns were raised

traffic congestion in the area.

The supermarket had hoped the proposals would be brought to the committee last month – but said this

had not been possible.

However, they say they are working to ensure the scheme will be discussed this month.

Delayed

Bosses admitted discussions have delayed plans slightly but said work will still begin next year if the propos-als are approved.

The new supermarket would be built on disused industrial land next to the existing store. A new petrol station would also be built and the

existing car park expanded. Fears have been raised from people living and working near the site who say it will increase traffic along the already busy Stallings Lane.

Morrisons spokesman Mark Hill said: "At the moment negotiations are still taking place with Dudley Council over plans for the new development.

Council over plans for the new dever-opment.

"This is about the road access to the site. Everyone wants to be sure that what is proposed is right for the area before it comes before the com-mittee." However, the discussions should be completed shortly and we are hoping the plans will be before the committee at a meeting this month, he added

Rope work has started

WORK to build the highes indoor ropes course of its kind in Europe as part of a new £1 million leisure attraction at Dudley's Merry Hill shopping centre has

Hill shopping centre has begun.
Rope, capable of withstanding the weight of a full-grown rhino, has been shipped in from America to create the indoor feature.
The course is part of a planned leisure complex being built between Debenhams and Sainsburys.
A team of specialist

hams and Sainsburys.

A team of specialist installers are working at night to ensure the course, which will top out at more than 55 feet is ready on time.

Pupils getting into new learning centre



Oliver Lucas, front left, and Danyaal Amjad, right, with Grace Elwell, back left, Rachel Hazelwood, head of English, Becky Johnson along with Nathasha Yaqub

STUDENTS are settling in to their new independent learning centre at Pedmore Technology College and Community School.

School.

Pupils have been flocking to spend time in the centre, which was officially opened by award-winning children's author Alan Durant.

There are computers, i-Pads and Kindles, books on MP3 players and CDs, a large whiteboard and presentation facilities and space to teach whole classes alongside more traditional reference materials, magazines, journals and books for loan.

for loan.

Mr Durant was visiting as part of National Poetry Week and spent the day meeting Key Stage Three students to share his experiences and life as a writer.

He also gave a reading from his books and shared tips and advice on how to master creative writing and poetry.

David Kemp, college principal said: "Our new learning centre is part of our continuous improvement programme at Pedmore and is proving to be a runaway success."

People's views are wanted on meetings

RESIDENTS' views are wanted on plans to overhaul public meetings that council bosses in Dudley say will give people a greater say in the way the authority is run.

Area committee meetings in Dudley will be scrapped and

The proposals will see nine new forums. The proposals will see nine new forums set up with the aim of making it easier for people to report and discuss issues with the council. Area committee meetings are currently held in Brierley Hill, Halesowen, Stourbridge and Central and North Dudley. But council bosses say they are too formal and do not give people the chance to discuss concerns.

too formal and do not give people the chance to discuss concerns.

Members of the public can submit their views on the plans to the council.

Councillor David Sparks, leader of Dudley Council, said: "The new forums are about focussing on issues that matter to people. Every forum will be different as it needs to reflect the specific communities we are working with."

People can email their comments to Philip Tart, director of corporator recourses.

of corporate r philip.tart@dudley.gov.uk resources,



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Fundraising champion is to get the royal approval

had a diabetes centre named after him at Kidderminster Hospital has been given the royal seal of approval.

Seventy-five-year-old Fred Holland, has been chosen to meet the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall at St James's

he Duchess of Cornwall at St James's Palace on November 29.
Charity WRVS named him one of its 'Diamond Champions' in recognition of his 42 years' fundraising work and his role as the chairman of Diabetes UK Midlands.
Mr Holland was one of 10 people from the Midlands to receive the honour, following more than 550 original nominations, which were then whittled down to 60.
He was presented with a specially-designed Diamond Champions pin at a ceremony in the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Birmingham and will also receive a certificate signed by the royal couple, who are joint patrons of the awards.
He said: "I just can't believe it. It was such a shock – a lovely one at that. I can't wait for

a shock - a lovely one at that. I can't wait for

a shock – a lovely one at that. I can't wait for the day to come.
"I felt very, very proud when they announced it. Everyone at the ceremony stood up and applauded me. It was a lovely feeling and a thoroughly enjoyable day." The judges described him as "a gentleman and a pleasure to work alongside", adding: "He is more than a volunteer: he represents all a volunteer should be." Mr Holland, from Rewdley has raised more than 140 000 for Bewdley, has raised more than £140,000 for Diabetes Research.

Roadworks get started

WORK to resurface dozens of roads around Wyre Forest as part of a £3.8 million improvement scheme aimed at reducing the number of potholes is getting under way. Around 350 routes around Worcestershire have been repaired during the programme of surfacing being carried out by the county council. Workers have carried out surface dressing to cut the number of potholes that could potentially form in the future.

Web of mystery is spun



Headkeeper of the discovery trail Jamie Wood, with the Huntsman spider CECIL the venomous Australian spider is at the centre of a web of mystery about how he ended up in a popular cafe.

The Australian Huntsman - actu-The Australian Huntsman – actu-ally a female – is now in temporary digs at Bewdley's West Midland Safari Park. Described by West Midland Safari Park wildlife direc-tor Bob Lawrence as "bigger than

the average bathtub spider" – Cecil was taken to a vet's after turning up in Hay-on-Wye last week.

Sian Ward, whose aunts own The Granary cafe in Hay on Wye, captured the spider. Mr Lawrence said: "There had been some Australian backpackers in the cafe so it may have been brought in on their luggage."



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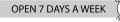


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School gets lifesaving equipment after death

astated when a visiting rugby player died after collapsing in a match there, has been

presented with life-saving equipment.
Staff at Sainsbury's in Kidderminster raised the £1,700 to buy a defibrillator package for the town's Baxter College, where 15-year-old Luke Chapman collapsed after suffering a sudden irregular heart-beat.

Supermarket staff vowed

Supermarket staff vowed they would work with the Hand on Heart charity to raise money after being upset about the tragedy. After buying the life-saving machine for Baxter College, together with a dummy to help train people to use it, they aim to carry on to buy more defibrillators for other local schools. Baxter College's Assistant

Baxter College's Assistant principal Chris Mann said:

principal Chris Mann said:
"We can't know whether use
of a defibrillator could have
saved Luke's life.
"But, since the tragedy, we
have decided to make sure
all our staff and pupils are
trained in CPR and we will

trained in CPR and we will feel happier having a defib-rillator in school. "Sainsbury's grasped the nettle to raise money for the equipment after Luke's death and we are very grate-

ful to them.

Mr Mann added: "The defibrillator is a very clever machine – and literally talks you through how to use it, starting with whether or not it should be used in each circumstance." cumstance.

by Louise Jew

"Around 10 of our staff will be trained to use the defibrillator after half-term and eventually all teaching and support staff will get the training, followed by CPR training for pupils."

Luke, a student at Hagley's Haybridge High School, died from sudden adult death syndrome after developing an irregular heartbeat without warning.

The schoolboy, from Hagley, was playing for his school at Baxter College when he collapsed on March 20.

Planting for future



Rita Mason, Gwen Morgan, Paul Abbott, Jill Nicholls, Ann Hickling, Adrian Adams and Judith Wheatley

SPRING bulbs have been planted at a Halesowen community centre to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

They will bring a splash of colour to the Senior Citizens Drop-in Centre, Andrew Road in the spring.

Members raised £100 to buy the bulbs, including crocuses and snowdrops, which have been planted on the grassed area in front of the centre.

Office block homes plan

AN empty office block in Dudley could be transformed into homes if the plans are approved.

The former children's support complex at Hermes House, near Kates Hill, has been on the market for months. But now plans have been tabled to renovate the building. These properties can be privately rented with several residents living under one roof with their own bedrooms. The office building in Hall Street, would be converted into17 bedrooms with two toilets, four bathrooms and two kitchens. A decision on the planning application is expected in the coming weeks. in the coming weeks.





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Olympic Achievement for Halesowen Company

With a client list that includes Harrods, Bentley and Wembley Stadium, Shaw Stone Surfaces Ltd is being recognised in high places – and the firm's latest commission was no exception.

Brothers Gavin and Gareth Shaw, experienced stonemasons who founded the Halesowen business three years ago, were instructed to manufacture the quartz vanity tops for each of the 133 bathrooms of the new Holiday Inn Hotel at the Olympic Park in Stratford, London. The Hotel was purpose built for the London 2012 Olympic Games and accommodated Olympic officials, athletes as well as spectators.

Shaw Stone Surfaces, which specialises in the design, production and installation of granite work surfaces, was asked to supply and install a quartz vanity top and backsplash in each of the new hotels bathrooms. Shaw Stone Surfaces Managing Director Gavin Shaw said that they had been approached to get involved with the Olympic Hotel after being involved in similar sized projects previously.



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stage the most fashionable, inspirational and interactive show in its 24-year history.

And the Chronicle series has teamed up with organisers to give 40 readers the chance to win a pair of show tickets for Monday, Decem-ber 10. At the heart of British fashion, Clothes Show Live 2012, in association with Suzuki, will take place from December 7-11 at Birm-ingham's NEC celebrating fashion at its finest.

ingham's NEC celebrating fashion at its finest.
The event will feature catwalk shows, designer guests, celebrities, makeovers, champagne bars, hundreds of fashion and beauty brands to shop from as well as the spectacular 5,500-seat Fashion Theatre showcasing the best of British design. Fronting this year's show is British model Daisy Lowe, star of campaigns for the likes of Chanel, Vivienne Westwood and Topshop.
This year the daily fashion shows in the Suzuki Fashion Theatre are being presented by stylist to the stars Grace Woodward and Brit fashion designer of the moment, Henry Holland.

Students

Also new this year is the incorporation of Britain and Ireland's

Also new this year is the incorporation of Britain and Ireland's Next Top Model Live in the Style Boutique, featuring even more fashion, catwalk shows, Model Master Class sessions and celebrity appearances - the ultimate girls' day out.

DJ and model Zara Martin has been announced as the host of the Diet Coke Image Catwalk showcasing High Street collections, finalyear collections from fashion students and pieces from designers of

the future.

The Style Studio will host talks by some of the country's leading stylists, workshops and career seminars on all things fashion related. Hundreds of fashion and beauty brands will be setting up pop-up shops in halls within the show.

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Appeal to lower speed on roads

AN "inappropriate" speed limit along some of a Dudley town's oldest streets could be cut following calls from

residents.

People living in Stourbridge's Old Quarter want the existing 30mph limit to be reduced to 20mph.

Officials from Dudley Council have agreed to look into the issue after hearing of the concerns.

Residents say the roads are not suited to the amount of traffic and there is even less space to manoeuvre due to on-street parking. They have been supported by councillors, who say the speed limit is too fast.

Councillor Judy Foster, said: "The council will be considering the installation of a number of 20mph zones outside schools. This may not be appropriate or easily enforceable in other areas. However, we will have a look at the issues raised about Stourbridge Old Quarter. We will see if there is any work that can be done."

Ernie's in the beak of condition once again



Ernie with senior zoo keeper Laura Robbins after his trip to the animal hospital where he had his beak trimmed

ERNIE the African tortoise at Dudley Zoo can happily munch away on his favourite food again after having his beak trimmed.

Keepers noticed the tortoise's bite was not quite meeting

properly in the middle and, although it was not causing him any distress, the zoo vet decided to trim it back quickly and

easily.

Zoo chief executive Peter Suddock said: "The vet used a mini orthopaedic grinder to trim Ernie's beak, a piece of equipment used to treat claw, bone, hoof and horn on other

'It took about 20 minutes in the zoo's animal hospital. Ernie didn't seem at all bothered and was soon back in the paddock munching on his favourite dandelions."

Mental health is to be focus of public forum

MENTAL health services in Dudley will be the focus of the latest forum where members of the public are invited to air

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group is staging the event on November 6 at Saltwells Education Centre in Netherton at 4.30pm.

Information will be available about areas of mental health services including dementia care, therapy and children's services.

dren's services.

Helen Ashford, of NHS Dudley, said: "Dudley CCG is taking over from NHS Dudley and is responsible for buying your healthcare locally.

"They value the input we gain from the people who attend the healthcare forum which is now clinically led, and want to know what you think they should be concentrating on in terms of priorities in healthcare in the future." To book a place call 01384 321719.



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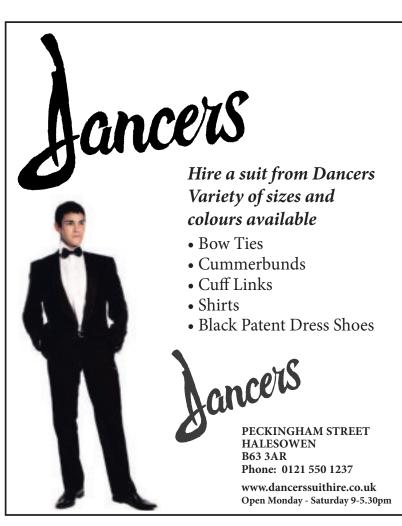
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CLUB NEWS

Guild sets out stall Stunned by magic at craft exhibition of guest

KINGSWINFORD LADIES SOCIAL **CIRCLE**

CHAIRMAN Audrey Phipps welcomed all the ladies, and Dr Bob King to the October meeting. Yvonne Brookes is recovering and is back home.

recovering and is back home.
Audrey thanked the
members for supporting last
month's auction, also the
committee for preparing the
harvest supper. Places are
available for the December
lunch at Val Thacker's.

A cheque for £80 has been dispatched to the White House, Dudley, one of the group's chosen charities.

Tickets for the Christmas Party on December 20 will be on sale next month

be on sale next month. Kathleen Turner has prepared, with the assistance of Yvonne Bayton, an impres-

Yvonne Bayton, an impressive programme of speakers for next year.

Dr Bob King provided entertainment with his cabaret magic. The audience participated in the "mind reading" acts involving the cards and they tried, but failed, to master the Chinese rings.

The laddies were astonished by the act of levitation involving one of the

isned by the act of reviation involving one of the members and the final acts of illusion, when water was turned to wine and a rabbit was produced out of a hat.

Ann Cooper gave a vote of thanks

thanks.
Sheila Evans, Barbara
Moss and Olive Pigott won
the raffle.

At the meeting on November 1 at The British Legion.
Val Austwick was introducing the ladies to rug making.



FORMAL matters were quickly dealt with at the October 18 meeting, TG diaries were distributed and names of those wishing to attend the Christmas lunch on December 6 at Fairlawns Hotel, Aldridge, were taken. Keith Cattell gave an interesting and informative talk and slideshow on '1,000 Years of Stained Glass', The competition for

an interesting piece of coloured glass was won by Glenys Marsden and Margaret Tolley, and the raffle was won by Val Walker. The Federation arts & craft exhibition at

PELSALL 'E' TG

Aldridge Community Centre was well attended. Pelsall's display included such items as a hand-knitted laptop cover, complete with stuffed mouse, knitted dolls and Christmas trees made from old magazines. Next month's meeting will take the form of words next month's meeting will take the form of sweet next month's meeting will take the form

of a mock auction with members bringing unwanted items to be sold off for charity. A short talk will be given by Sarah Heath of the Re-Assurance Team on Walsall Council.

Mystery 'wonder' revealed

AT THE October meeting of the club, held at the King-fisher Country Club & Hotel, members we were intrigued by the subject to be presented by the speaker Mr Richardson, "The Campden Wonder'. Was it a horse or a butterfly?

The mystery was revealed as a murderous tale in the Cotswolds area of Chipping Campden and the ladies'

WALL HEATH LADIES PROBUS CLUB

attention was held by the 17th century story. Mr Richardson, an excel-lent speaker has a keen interest in historical hap-

penings.
The speaker on Tuesday

November 20, will also have a story to tell, and on December 18, the club is being entertained by St Andrews Church Choir, Sedgley.

Meetings are held on the

third Tuesday of the month from 12.30pm for lunch. The club would love to hear from anyone with time to spare on a Tuesday. Call 01902





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shopping and sightseeing. For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and disco (conditions apply). For the Saturday Night option you will see the evening performance. For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options). Pick ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

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The self-drive break is for one evening staying either on the Friday

night or Saturday night in a four-star hotel. You will see the evening performance: for Friday night you will have a top price ticket and for Saturday evening there is a choice of price bands. Stay extra nights for a reasonable supplement (subject to availability).

the "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details Single room supplements apply.

neatre brochure call (01902) 319999 (Mon to Fri, 9am to 5pm), email starextra@expressandstar.co.uk (include your name and address) or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel d brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

NEWS

after work

RECEPTION pupils were finally starting lessons at a school after asbestos was

school after asbestos was found there.
Ceilings were being refurbished at Cotwall End Primary, Sedgley, as the potentially harmful material was found, delaying work.
Fifty children, aged four and five, should have started

and five, should have started on September 4 but were instead accommodated at The Straits Primary.

The rest of the school has opened as usual since the start of the school year.

Nicole Anderton, Cotwall End Primary head, said: "We are really pleased."

Pupils back after work **£2.3m sports shake-up** is planned for academy

outdoor all-weather pitch will be built at a Dudley academy under plans to boost ailing facilities.

Staff say the sports hall and changing rooms at Holly Hall Academy are among the worst in the borough. The roof leaked creating about £30,000 of running repairs.

Part of the floor started to collapse,

for new facilities. Staff also say that a Redgra outdoor pitch at the Scotts Green Close school, is "unusable" and

Green Close school, is "unusable" and needs replacing.

Plans are dependent on Holly Hall getting a share of a £276 million capital funding pot from the Government and planning permission is needed to boost chances of the funding bid being accepted. Mr Lloyd said: "Our children deserve the best sports facilities but at the moment they are below par." the moment they are below par.'

a council planning meeting include an astroturf pitch over the Redgra surface along with six floodlights and a new along with six floodlights and a new sports hall being built on grassed land

sports hall being built on grassed land on the site.

Sports England officials raised concerns about proposals to build on existing sports fields. The organisation's planning manager John Berry said that the development should not be to the detriment of the existing sports fields and running track. fields and running track.

Woman caught trying to cash false £1,700 cheque

A WOMAN was foiled in her attempt to pocket more than £1,700 by cashing a false cheque at Black Country store after staff became suspicious.

Natalie Stacey, aged 28, tried to cash the cheque, payable in her name, at the Money Store in Dudley's Merry Hill Shopping Centre on October 11.

Dudley Magistrates Court heard the cheque belonged to Bolton firm Silver Glide and had aroused the suspicions of

became suspicious.

Natalie Stacey, aged 28, tried to cash the cheque, payable in her name, at the Money Store in Dudley's Merry Hill Shopping Centre on October 11.

Dudley Magistrates Court heard the cheque belonged to Bolton firm Silver Glide and had aroused the suspicions of steff.

They contacted the firm who confirmed they had no knowledge of Stacey, of North Street, Dudley, and had never employed

her. Police were called to the store but Stacey

Stacey had agreed to go ahead with it as she was short of cash.

She pleaded guilty to attempting to commit fraud by false representation.

Stacey was sentenced to an eight-week community order and given a two month curfew from 8pm to 8am









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REVIEWS

Spotlight shines bright on X Factor Nikki

The well-selected cast brings the tale to life but it is fair to say the spotlight shone brightest on Tamworth's Nikki Evans of X Factor fame who filled the

Blood Brothers, Hippodrome, Birmingham

THIS gritty production about a pair of estranged twins has both comical and dark elements that wonderfully complement each other from start to end.

The well selected each birm of the twint of twint of the twint of twint of the twint of the twint of the twint of tw the other a working class miscreant. Their chance encounter and love of local girl Linda (Olivia Sloyan) drives them both to madness and ruin.

The role of Wet Wet Wet's Marti Pellow, as the harbinger of doom suits him to a Tee. His voice has lost none of its magic, but at times lacked clarity possibly due to the Scouse accent.

Brothers Eddie (Jorden Bird) and Mickey (Sean Jones) each go their separate ways but never truly stray from the friendship they share

Versatile Lakeman heads queue for musical talent

Birmingham WHEN they handed out musical talent not only was Seth Lakeman at

taient not only was seth Lakeman at the front of the queue but he also went back for seconds. He came on to the thumping beat of More than Money then linked straight into Blacksmith's Prayer

straight into backsmints rrayer using the bouzouki, picking up the tempo with his distinctive voice coming clear over the instruments. All-rounder Lakeman was joined by guest singer Lisbee Stainton for the ballad The Sender from his Barrel House album.

With a change of instrument, one of at least 10 throughout the concert, Lakeman pulled out Solomon Browne. Showing even more versa-

tility for Apple of his Eye, a song about cider making, he took to his fiddle and played pizzicato.

There was another change instrument for the ballad White Hare which really showed the depth and clarity of his voice and the group moved to Blood Red Sky which had a

Latin undertone.

He moved back to the fiddle for He moved back to the indile for The Hurlers and made another change for the Take No Rogues, which featured a banging solo from the double bass. Lakeman did his signature fiddle solo to end the set with his machine

gun movements building up to a Vivaldi Four Seasons-style

Danny Farragher



Seth Lakeman - musical talents

Joan shows some emotion on nome soil

Armatrading Symphony

Joan Armatrading Symphony Hall, Birmingham IT WAS an understated entrance for Joan Armatrading – on her home turf– singing Down To Zero as her opener with her distinctive voice filling the Symphony Hall even before she could

She played both acoustic and electric guitar with consummate ease and can also hammer out rifts like a seasoned rock star. She also funked it up with Show Some Emotion which moved smoothly into Single Life. Joan used her wonderfully deep voice for another popular hit All The Way From Amorica

voice for another popular hit All The Way From America. The hall lapped up everything the Emmy Award winner threw at them and even though it's now more than 30 years old she couldn't really get away without playing her biggest success Love and Affection She brought a mel-

Love and Affection. She brought a mellower sound in the title track of her new album Starlight and showed real emotion in the haunting ballad The Weakness In Me.

It took Me Myself and I to get the crowd dancing in the aisless and she gave them what they wanted, finishing with Drop The Pilot and the last track on her new album Summer Kisses. on her new album, Summer Kisses.

Danny Farragher

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New opera

season has

La boheme

WELSH National Opera return to Birmingham Hip-

podrome next week with their critically-acclaimed new production of La boheme.

Their four-day visit will

also include performances of Handel's oratorio Jeptha and Cosi fan tutte trans-ferred to an English seaside

ferred to an English seaside resort.

This version of Puccini's La boheme is set in early 1900s Paris and features Alex Vicens as Rodolfo, Giselle Allen as Mimi and Kate Valentine as Musetta. It is staged on November 8 and 10.

and 10. Mozart's Cosi fan tutte is updated to a seaside resort in the 1960s in the version

What's On! Halesowen

Switching heavy metal to comedy

metal to comedy

FORMER heavy metal
drummer turned comedian
Stephen Hughes has
embarked on his second
UK tour.

He will be performing at
The Public in West
Bromwich on Saturday
(November 3) and the following night at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall. A
date at the Glee Club in
Birmingham follows on
November 25.

Hughes, who was with
the band Mortal Sin, has
appeared on Live At The
Apollo, One Night Stand,
Stand Up Of the Week and
Michael McIntyre's
Comedy Roadshow.

Celebrating the

Celebrating the music of movies

A SERIES of matinee shows at Dudley Town Hall continues with a celebration of blockbuster movies and musicals.

Timeless Theatre: Rolling Back the Years takes place on November 5 at 2 mm

at 2pm.
Tickets cost £11 from the
box office on 01384 812812

or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/enter-tainment.

Comedy at pub

COMEDY act The Black Country Boys will be playing on November 3 at the Knights Quest pub, Blackheath High Street. Entrance is £4 on the night. There will also be three consecutive karaoke nights between Sunday and Tuesday this week. For details call 0121 561 5599.

Son of rock and pop legend joins tribute to late father

Bolan and soul singer Gloria Jones, will be joining the top tribute act to his father, T.Rextasy, in concert at Bilston's Robin 2 venue on Saturday night.

venue on Saturday night.

Bolan junior was brought up in Los Angeles and the concert, celebrating Marc Bolan's 65th birthday, marks a rare UK appearance by the 37-year-old singer and songwriter. His glam rock star father was killed in a car accident in September 1977, aged 29.

During the 1970s Bolan, as leader of TRex and solo, had a string of hits and revolutionised the music scene alongside David Bowie and longside David Bowie and Roxy Music.

SOAP legend Anita Dobson, still most famous as 1980s icon Angie Watts, the wronged wife of Dirty Den in East Enders, has joined the Royal Shakespeare Company for their latest pro-duction in Stratford-upon-

duction in Stratford-upon-Avon.

After winning acclaim for her performances in several plays, the Stepney-born actress has been cast as the gossiping Mistress Quickly in Shakespeare's comedy The Merry Wives of Windsor.

The Merry Wives of Windsor.
The play was due to open
this week, after previews
were cancelled due to technical problems, and continues
in repertoire at the Royal
Shakespeare Theatre until
January 12. See
www.rsc.org.uk.

alongside David Bowie and Roxy Music.

His hits included Ride A White Swan, Get It On, Hot Love, Metal Guru, Jeepster, Telegram Sam, 20th Century Boy, I Love To Boogie and Children of the Revolution. The legacy is continued by

T.Rextasy fronted by Bolan soundalike Danielz, who

soundalike Danielz, who have been gigging around the world for 20 years – a lot longer than T.Rex did.

Rolan Bolan will be performing his own songs and some of his father's hits alongside T.Rextasy, live on stage from 8.30mm 8.30mm

alongside T.Rextasy, live on stage from 8.30pm. Tickets are available in advance from the Mount Pleasant venue for £12 (door £13). Call 01902 401211.



Kate Valentine as Musetta in Welsh National Opera's production of La boheme, being staged at Birmingham Hippodrome next week, picture by Catherine Ashmore

Say Hello Dolly at Grand Theatre

BILSTON Operatic Company presents the musical about romantic matchmaker Dolly Levi, Hello Dolly, at Wolverhamp-ton Grand Theatre next

ton Grand Theatre next week.

The company will take the audience to 1890s New York for their version of the award-winning show which, when turned into a movie in 1969, made Barbra Streisand a star in the title role

Streisand a star in the title role.

Maggie Page plays Dolly at the Grand from Tuesday via Saturday, and the big songs include Put On Your Sunday Clothes and, of course, the famous title song.

Spiritual sounds come from Africa

A TRADITIONAL African gospel concert will be performed in Dudley on November 3.

Nkosi Ka Ndlovu & The Experience, will also be recording their latest live CD and DVD at the gig.

Proceeds will go Mr Ndlovu's former school Zidulini primary in Zimbabwe, where he started a development project in development project in 2009. The show is at Dudley Town Hall at 7pm. Tickets are £10 for adults, £7 children aged six to 15, and children up to five years old go free.

Play within a play

RIVAL playwrights play a deadly game in Ira Levin's 'play within a play' Death-trap, staged by Highbury Theatre in Sheffield Road, Sutton Coldfield. It's on fromNovember 6 to 17. Call 0121 373 2761.



What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 3.11.12

CHOICE



The Late Great Eric BBC2, 8.45pm

Eric Sykes devoted his life to making people laugh, so the world was a lot duller when the final curtain came down on his showbusiness career with his death on July 4 this year. Now the BBC are finally devoting an evening to the man himself, with this documentary featuring Eddie Izzard, Russ Abbot, Michael Palin, Bruce Forsyth and director Mike Newell, Later, there's a classic episode of much-loved sitcom Sykes, and then another chance to see Arena: Sykes and a Day. from 2001. Covering his success in sitcom land.

6 00 Breakfast 10 00 Saturda 6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Football Focus. 12.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 12.10 Live Formula 1: Abu Dhabi Grand Prix Qualifying. 2.15 Live International Rugby League. 4.30 Final Score. 5.20 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 5.40 Pointless Celebrities.

Pointless Celebrities.

Strictly Come Dancing.
Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly
present another ballroom
battle as the pro-celebrity
couples bid to impress the
judges and get their names
at the top of the leaderboard.
The results are tomorrow at
7.20pm.

Merlin. Three soothsayers
cast a dark judgement upon
Arthur, but despite Merlin's
warnings, the headstrong

Arthur, but despite Merlin's warnings, the headstrong king refuses to take their words seriously – so their fury rains down on Camelot. Casualty, Dylan is asked out by a former patient, and a girl's desperation to pay her bullies off ends with her uncle visiting the ED. Connie Fisher guest stars.

Hisher guest stars.
The National Lottery
Saturday Night Draws.
Classical singing group
Amore perform as Myleene
Klass reveals the winning
numbers for the Lotto and
Thunderball draws.

10 00 BBC News: Weather 10.00 BBC News; Weather.
10.20 Match of the Day. Including highlights of Manchester United v Arsenal; National Lottery Update.

Lottery Update.

1.45 The Football League Show.
Highlights of today's games in the Championship.

12.25 Film: Bigga Than Ben: A Russians' Guide to Ripping Off London. (2008) 1.45 Weatherview.
1.50 BBC News.

BBC₂

6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 12.00 Nigellissima. (R) 12.30 Animal Park. (R) 1.15 Film: Bitter Victory. (1957) 2.55 Film: The High and the Mighty. (1954) 5.15 Escape to the Country. (R)

Mignty, (1934) 5. 18 assupers of Country, (R)
6.15 Flog It! People are invited to try to make money by selling their antiques at auction. (R)
7.15 Dambusters Declassified.
Actor Martin Shaw takes to the skies to retrace the 1943 raid by 617 Squadron, which used bouncing bombs to attack German dams. (R)
9.15 Dad's Army. The platoon

8.15 Dad's Army. The platoon helps Godfrey's widowed friend gather in the harvest on her farm. Starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier.

8.45 The Late Great Eric Sykes.

8.45 The Late Great Eric Sykes. A tribute to the comedy writer and actor who died in July, featuring contributions by Eddie Izzard, Michael Syddie Izzard, Michael Abot and Bruce Forsyth 9.45 U. K. Stephen Fy hosts an extended edition of the quiz, with Jo Brand, John Sessions, Dara O Briain and regular panellist Alan Davies answering questions on the topic of jumble.

10.30 Sykes. The siblings are about to leave on holiday, so Hattle discloses the events of their previous vacations. Sykes and a Day. A

abroad. (R)

10.55 Arena: Sykes and a Day. A
profile from 2001 of comedy
write and actor Eric Sykes,
who reflects on his life and
long career in television,
radio and film and the people
he worked with. (R)

12.05 Film: Frequently Asked
Ouestions About Time Travel.
(2009) 1.25 Film: Octane. (2003)

ITV₁

6.00 CITV: CITV. 9.25 ITV New 9.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.
10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.
10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.
11.20 Dinner Date: Australia. 12.20
ITV News; Weather 12.30 All Star
Family Fortunes. (R) 1.15 Holiday
Home Sweet Home. 3.15 Flim:
One Sweet Home. 3.15 Flim:
Strikes Back. (1980) 5.35 Regional
Programme: Weather.5.50 ITV
News: Weather.

6.05 The Golden Rules of TV. Joe Swash demonstrates Joe Swash demonstrates the importance of health and safety, and Eamonn Holmes and Fiona Phillips talk about the pitfalls of making breakfast television.

Rew You've Been Framed!
 Comedian Harry Hill narrates a fresh selection of comical clips filmed by viewers on their camcorders, mobile phanes and webgame.

phones and webcams.

Take Me Out. A dancer, a debonair Londoner, a karateloving businessman and a student try to impress 30 single women and win a date to the Isle of Fernandos.

Paddy McGuinness presents

to the Isle of Fernandos.
Paddy McGuinness presents.
The X Factor. The remaining acts battle for viewers' votes and the approval of the four judges in the fifth live studio round, hosted by Dermot O'Leary. The results are tomorrow at 8pm.

The Jonathan Ross Show

10.05 The Jonathan Ross Show. With Olly Murs and Melissa George, plus music by Tinie Tempah and Calvin Harris.

11.05 ITV News: Weather.

11.20 FA Cup Highlights.

12.35 The Store. ITV News Headlines. 2.35 Ladette to Lady: Australia. (R) 3.20 ITV 5.30 ITV Morning

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Channel 4 Presents – Nathan. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs, (R) 6.25 Volkswagen Racing Cup. 7.05 Beach Volleyball. (R) 8.80 Dthe Morning Line. 9.00 T4: 4Music Video Honours: Best Video Nominees. 9.30 T4: Ne-Yo: London Live. 10.00 T4: Made in Chelisea. 11.05 T4: Suburgatory. 11.35 T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.05 T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.35 T4: The Simpsons. (R) 1.40 Channel 4.55 Come Dine with Me Down Under. 4.55 Come Dine with Me Down Under. 4.55 Come Dine with Me Down Under. 5.25 Come Dine with Me Down Under. 5.25 Come Dine with Me Down Under. 5.00 Come Dine with Me Down Under. 6.00 Come Dine with Me Down 6.05 Channel 4 Presents - Nathan

r. Come Dine with Me Down Under. Lachlan Hosking hosts the fifth and final night.

Channel 4 News.

4thought.tv. A musician who believes he has been in touch with his ancestors.

with his ancestors.

7.00 George Clarke's Amazing
Spaces. The architect meets
a man planning a both-hole in
the Lake District and visits
people in London who live
and work in customised
shipping containers. (R)

8.00 Grand Designs. A water
tower conversion in central
London. (R)

9.00 Elim Green Zone. (2010)

London. (R)

9.00 Film: Green Zone. (2010)
Premiere. A military officer
searching traq for weapons
of mass destruction after the
US invasion uncovers a
political conspiracy. Thriller,
starring Matt Damon and
Greg Kinnear.

11.15 Film: What Happens in
Vegas. (2009) Comedy, with
Cameron Diaz.

1.05 Film: Black Rain. (1989) 3.10 Hollyoaks. 5.20 Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshakel 10.00 Power Rangers: Super Samural. 10.35 Barman: The Brave and the Both Samural. 10.15 Barman: The Brave and the Both Samural. 10.15 Barman: The Brave 6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Pow

Peter U Toole.

10.00 CSI: Wilami. Horatio links the murder of a woman to Esteban Navarro, who he long suspected of being serial killer the Miami Taunter. Guest Starring Kuno Becker and Raquel Welch.

Becker and Haquel Weich.

11.00 CSI: Crime Scene
Investigation. A blackjack
player is murdered following
a big win, but the
investigation reveals the
highroller was on an allexpenses paid weekend
funded by his wealthy boss.
(R)

funded by his wealthy boss.

(R)

11.55 Inside Hollywood. Magazine show, with location reports, news and views from behind the scenes.

12.00 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming 3.55 House Doctor. Home improvements. (R) 4.20 Divine Designs. St 5ophia's Church, London. (R) 4.45 Rough Guide to Journeys. (R) 5.05 Hana's Helpline. Loridon: (R) 4.45 Rough Guide to Journeys. (R) 5.05 Hana's Helpline (R) 5.15 The Milkshakel Show. (R) 5.35 Thomas & Friends. (R) 5.50 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

7.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes 8.00 Top Gear 9.00 Live at the Apollo 9.30 Russell Howard's Good News 10.00 MOBO Awards 2012

7.00 Human Planet **8.00** Horizon: The Core **9.00** Inspector Montalbano 10.50 Horror Europa with Mark Gatiss

7.50 Film: Nanny McPhee (2005) 7.50 Film: E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial (1982) 10.05 The Xtra Factor 11.05 Take Me Out – The Gossip 11.50 Celebrity Juice

7.00 Rosemary & Thyme 8.00
Foyle's War 10.00 Agatha Christie's
Poirot

2.10 Film: Where Eagles Dare (1969) 5.15 Film: All Quiet on the Western Front (1930) Drama, Western Front (1930) Drama, starring Lew Ayres, Louis Wolheim and John Wray. 8.00 Film: The Dam Busters (1954) Fact-based Second World War drama, starring Michael Redgrave. 10.30 Film: Rav Deal (1986) Action thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.

5.35 How I Mate Your Mother 6.35 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 Rules of Engagement 9.00 Big Fat Quiz of the 90s 10.40 Film: Underworld: Evolution (2006)

3.15 Robots (2005) Animated adventure with the voice of Ewan adventure, with the voice of Ewa McGregor. 5.00 New in Town (2009)v 6.50 The Devil Wears Prada (2006) Comedy drama, starring Meryl Streep. Anne Hathaway and Emily Blunt. 9.00 Sex and the City (2008) Comedy starring Sarah Jessica Parker. 11.45 The Beast Stalker (2008)

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 4.11.12

CHOICE



Homeland

Channel 4, 9pm
Admit it – you thought you'd have to wait to the end of the second season for someone to realise war hero-turned-politician Brody was in league with terrorists. Instead, only two episodes into the new season, Saul had found the recording of Brody's confession. Carrie was vindicated, and viewers realised they had no real idea where Homeland was going next. So, prepare to be back on the edge of the sofa, as this week Brody is back in prison - only this time it's on American soil. and he presumably won't

BBC₁

6.00 Breakfast, 7.35 Match of the Day, (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 Sunday Morning Live. 11.00 Sunday Politics. 12.10 Live Formula 1: Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. 3.30 Nature's Miracle Babies. (R) 4.30 Points of View. 4.45 Songs of View. 4.45 Songs of Politics (P) 10.00 Sept. (B) 5.50 BBC News. 2005 Sept.

Day, (R) 5.50 BBC News; onal News; Weather.

Countrylile, Ellie Harrison spends a day with woodsman Ben Law in West Sussex, and presents highlights from past programmes on a forest theme, including John Craven's adventure in Snowdonia.

Snowdonia.
7.20 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Another couple perform their last dance.
8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The experts visit the North Yorkshire town of Seathernuck where finds. Scarborough, where finds include a carved tribute to a Spitfire pilot killed in action, an early fridge and a Fijian war club.

Andrew Marr's History of the World The Industrial

10.00 BBC News; Regional News;

Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day 2.
Including highlights of
Liverpool v Newcastle
United.

United.

11.25 The Graham Norton Show.
With Robbie Williams, Paul
O'Grady and Darcey Bussell.
(R)

12.10 The Col.

(R)
12.10 The Sky at Night. 12.30
Weatherview. 12.35 Sign Zone: The
Choir: Sing While You Work. (R)
1.35 Holby City. (R) 2.35 The
Paradise. (R) 3.35 Servants: The
True Story of Life Below Stairs. (R)
4.35 BBC News

BBC2

Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.30
Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.30
The Great British Bake Off
Masterclass; (R) Weather for the
Week Ahead. 12.35 Escape to the
Drum Song. 13.51 Escape to the
Drum Song. (1951) 3.40 Flog it!
(R) 4.25 Film: The Tuxedo. (2002)
6.00 Fawily Towers. A rumour
that hotel inspectors are in
town brings out the worst in
Basil as he tries to spot the
undercover enemy without
upsetting the guests. Guest
starring Bernard Cribbins.
(R)
6.30 Indian Ocean with Simon

(H)
6.30 Indian Ocean with Simon
Reeve. Simon journeys from
Oman to the Maldivies, where
the tropical coral islands are
being damaged by bleaching
and one entire island has
been manufactured as a
landfill dump. (R)

landfill dump. (H)
7.30 Dhama: What Happened to
Hope? Andrew Marr looks
back at President Barack
Obama's term in office,
assessing if his
administration has lived up
to the huge expectations.

to the huge expectations.

8.30 Space Dive. Documentary about Felix Baumgartner's record-breaking parachute jump last month, when he became the first person to freefall through the sound barrier

10.00 Harry & Paul. The Minor Royals are confused by a homeless man. 10.30 Hebburn. Sarah's parents visit. (R)

11.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks With guest host Ne-Yo. (R)

with guest flost Ne-70. (R)

11.30 Film: American Beauty.
(1999) Drama, starring Kevin Spacey.
1.25 Film: The Big Kahuna. (1999)
2.50 BBC News. 4.35 Close.

6.00 CITV: CITV. 9.25 All Star Family Fortunes, (R) 10.10 The X Factor (R) 11.50 TIV News; Weather: 12.00 Live FA Cup Football 3.00 You've Been Framed! (R) 3.30 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 4.30 The Home of Fabulous Cakes. 5.30 Downton Abbey. (R) 6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather Surprise Surprise. JLS, Robbie Savage and some of the stars of Towie make dreams come true for unsuspecting members of the public, and a woman meets her father for the first

time.

8.00 The X Factor Results.
Dermot O'Leary announces
the outcome of the viewers'
phone-in and the two least
popular acts have to sing for
survival.

survival.

9.00 Downton Abbey. The annual cricket match brings out Roberts competitive side, Violet's great-niece Rose arrives and Thomas's future lies in Carson's hands. Last in the series.

10.30 ITV News; Weather.

10.45 FA Cup Highlights. Action from today's four remaining first-round matches in the world's oldest domestic cup competition, and a look at the draw for round two.

11.30 Premiership Rugby Union.

the draw for round two.

11.30 Premiership Rugby Union.
Action from the eighth round
of fixtures, including
Leicester Tigers v
Northampton Saints,
Harlequins v Gloucester and

Saracens v London Wasps.

12.25 The Store; ITV News
Headlines. 2.30 Golden Balls. (R)
3.20 Motorsport UK. 4.05 ITV
Nightscreen. 5.30 Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

CHANNEL 4
6.05 Channel 4 Presents — Lee. (R)
6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The
Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Extreme Sailing
Series. 7.30 Ironam Triathlon.
8.00 Channel 4 Presents — Hannah.
(R) 8.05 Will & Grace. (R) 9.8.30
Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.80
Sunday Brunch. 12.00 The Big
Bang Theory. (R) 12.55 The
Simpsons. (R) 1.25 Film: Never
Been Kissed. (1999) 3.30 Deal or
No Deal: Show Me The Mummy.
4.30 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.35
Film: X-Men. (2000)

7.25 Channel 4 News.
7.55 4thought.tv. A Muslin reveals his belief that

reveals his belief that troubled and grieving people can be contacted by spirits called jinns, which are misinterpreted as supernatural communication from dead relatives.

8.00 How Britain Worked. Guy Martin visits Llandudno in north Wales to try to return the seaside resort to its former Victorian glory, working on restoring the pie and servicing the funicular

Homeland. Brody finds himself a prisoner again, but this time on American soil, while Carrie faces the consequences of her rash judgement call at the hotel.

10.10 Friday Night Dinner. Jonny wants to split up with Liz.

10.40 Derren Brown: Apocalypse.
The showman concludes his two-part special. (R)
11.40 Film: Scary Movie 2. (2001)
Comedy, starring Anna Faris.

1.10 American Football Live. 4.45 Brief Encounters of the Sporting Mind. (R) 4.50 Grudge Match. (R) 5.00 Countdown. (R) 5.45 Make Do & Mend. (R)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5
6.00 Milkshakel: Peppa Pig, 6.05
Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Fifi
and the Flowertots. (R) 6.25 Bert
and Ernies Great Adventures. (R)
6.30 The Mr Men Show. (R) 6.25 Bert
and Ernies Great Adventures. (R)
6.30 The Mr Men Show. (R) 6.40
Castle Farm. (R) 6.50 Abby Flying
Fairy School. (R) 7.00 Roobarb and
Custard Too. (R) 7.05 Bananas in
Pyjamas. (R) 7.20 Playl (R) 7.25
Friends. (R) 7.50 Milkshakel
Monkey. (R) 7.55 Little Princess.
(R) 8.10 The Adventures of Bottle
Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky.
(R) 8.20 Min Mao. (R) 8.25
Angelina Ballerina. 8.45 Ruper
Samuel Mondow. (R) 9.15 Great
Friends. (R) 9.15 Great
Frie

7.15 Film: Hancock. (2008) Comedy, starring Will Smith and Charlize Theron. 9.00 Film: Bangkok Dangerous. (2008) Premiere. A hitman (2008) Premiere. A hitman questions his way of life, while his employer plots to have him killed when his work is done. Action thriller remake, with Nicolas Cage and Shahkrit Yamnarm.

and Shahkrit Yamnarm.

11.00 Hatfields & McCoys. Ellison
Hatfield is gravely injured in a
knife fight. (R)

12.00 Bomber Boys: Revealed, 1.00 Super-Casino. 4.00 The FBI
Files. (R) 5.00 Hana's Helpline. (R)
5.35 Thomas & Frends. (R) 5.45
Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Formula 1: Abu Dhabi Grand
Prix Highlights 8.00 Gavin & Stacey
9.00 Sun, Sex and Suspicious
Parents 10.00 American Dad!
10.45 Family Guy 11.30 Cuckoo
BBC Four

BBC Four 7.00 The Golden Age of Canals 8.00 Michael Wood: The Story of India 9.00 JFK's Road to the White House: Primary 1960 9.55 Film: The Devil's Backbone (2001) 11.35 Michael Wood: The Story of India

3.05 Film: The Polar Express (2004) 5.00 Take Me Out 6.15 Take Me Out – The Gossip 7.00 Film: Evan Almighty (2007) 9.00 The Xtra Factor Results 10.00 I'm a Celebrity: Best Trials Ever 11.00 Girffr/3nds

7.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot 9.00 Film: Murder on the Orient Express (1974) 11.40 Film: Stiff Upper Lips (1998)

11V4
2.35 Film: Kelly's Heroes (1970)
5.30 Film: The Dam Busters (1954)
8.00 Premiership Rugby Union
9.00 Film: Apocalypse Now (1979)
Vietnam War drama, starring Martin
Sheen.

E4
3.05 Charlie's Angels 4.05 Made in Chelsea 5.05 New Girl 5.40
Suburgatory 6.05 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 Film: Three Men and a Baby (1987) 10.00 Misfits 11.00
The Work Experience 11.30 Made in Chelsea

Film4
3.10 The Iron Giant (1999) 4.50
Love Happens (2009) 6.55
Fantastic Four (2005) Sci-fi comicbook adventure, starring loan
Gruffudd. 9.00 The Twilight Saga:
New Moon (2009) 11.35 Flags of
Our Fathers (2006)

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Film Choices

Revolver, Channel 5, 9pm

A gambler endures a seven-year stint in solitary confinement after being set up by his deranged and dangerous former boss, a malevolent casino-owner who also murdered his sister-in-law. On release he plans to exact a fitting revenge and sets out to bankrupt the villain, with the help of two enigmatic loan sharks. Guy Ritchie's crime drama, with Jason Statham, Ray Liotta, Vincent Pastore, Terence Maynard and Andre Benjamin. (2005)

Tuesday
Lunacy, Channel 4, 1.05am
A man plagued by horrific nightmares of going mad is travelling home from his mother's funeral when an interest affects him a place to stay for the night. He is aristocrat offers him a place to stay for the night. He is soon dragged into a disturbing ritual and faces being "cured" of his dreams by being sent to an asylum where the patients' delusions are given free rein. Satirical horror, starring Pavel Liska and Jan Tr?ska. In Czech. (2005)

Wednesday The Ring, BBC1, 11.15pm

A journalist investigates several teenage deaths, which are linked to a cursed videotape and the rumour that anyone who watches it will die a week later. Her growing obsession with the tape endangers herself and her family — and to avoid the predicted fate, she has just seven days to find out where the recording came from.

Gore Verbinski's remake of the Japanese supernatural



The Ring, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.15pm

Awkward teenagers Simon, Will, Jay and Neil plan a holiday to the Greek island of Crete after they finish their exams, hoping to experience drink, sex and debauchery beyond their wildest dreams. However, things do not quite work out as planned. Comedy based on the TV series, with Joe Thomas, Simon Bird, James Buckley, Blake Harrison, Emily Head, Anthony Head, Lydia Rose Bewley and Laura Haddock. (2011)

A mild-mannered lookalike is asked to step in to A mile-frialfilleter toolkalike is asked to step in to impersonate the US president, who is recovering from a stroke. However, he soon realises that in addition to affairs of state, he also has to handle matters of the heart, bringing happiness back into the life of the disillusioned First Lady. Comedy, starring Kevin Kline, Sigourney Weaver, Frank Langella, Ben Kingsley, Ving Rhames and Kevin Dunn. (1993)

Pick of the Week

Gabriel's political drama mirrors real-life events

politicians haven't been flavour of the month for, well, rather a few months now... which makes them a brilliant focus for a brand new drama.

Very loosely based on Chris Very loosely based on Chris Mullins' A Very British Coup, Secret State stars Gabriel Byrne as Tom Dawklins who, as deputy prime minister, decides to take on the American Petrochemical company Petrofex after a devastating accident on British soil.

But it's not going to be easy for him. As a man who believes in transparency and open government, he's got his work cut out in tackling vested interests as he goes about the task of finding out the truth behind the accident and getting justice for the families affected.

When the prime minister dies in suspicious circumstances, he's up against heavyweights Flos Yelland and Felix Durrell for the top job – but it's clear neither of his opponents have the victims' best interests at heart in their campaign.

Screen veteran that he is, Byrne is no stranger to gritty roles. You only

nave to cast your mind back to 2003's Vanity Fair (in which he starred opposite Reese Witherspoon), and more recently his role in In Treatment (for which he won a Golden Globe), to see that this is a man clearly up for a challenge.

challenge.

But does he feel that the storyline in his is a tittle too close to home in a country where the government faces no end of cynicism at the present time?

"It sounds like we were imitating the headlines, but actually one of the problems of doing a contemporary thriller is that you have to race to beat the headlines.

the headlines.

"The major incident that happens in this that gives rise to the story is a huge petrochemical explosion in a mall town in Northern England, where they're developing a drone fuel.

"Just a week before we finished it, there was a story in the paper about the development of nuclear-powered drones, and a probable scenario where what we've come to regard now as conventional warfare will be obsoleler. So Inarks. regiments. obsolete – so tanks, guns, regiments, all that stuff, would be replaced by the

possibility of a drone that can fly at jet speeds over continents with a nuclear payload."

However, the actor has no doubts about this drama's success. He explains: "I think the function of a really good political thriller is not providing the answers, but to raise

"And that's why I believe these kinds of films are important, because you come in with the really big ideas on the back of a gripping story.

"One of the things that's interesting about this drama is that we're talking about a politician who speaks the truth, a man of integrity who stands up to the status quo."

One thing's for certain; you'll need to put your brain in to gear – while this isn't going to be relaxed viewing, well done Channel 4 on another promising debate-provoking drama.

Charles Dance, Stephen Dillane, Rupert Graves, Douglas Hodge, Ralph Ineson, Sylvestra Le Touzel, Anna Madeley, Gina McKee, Ruth Negga, Jamie Sives, Al Weaver, Lia Williams, Susan Cookson and Russ Kilmister co-star.



Gabriel Byrne stars in Secret State, Friday, Channel 4, 10pm

Best of the Rest

Monday

Channel 4, 8,30pm

The nights are growing colder – despite our determination to wait, we've had the heating on for weeks – and nothing makes us feel even more cosy than a big, plate of steaming hot tucker. But don't eat it while you're watching this, for goodness sake. This is the last episode of the eye-opening series which has enlightened us as to what really goes into our favourite foods. Matt Tebbutt finds nimself in Sweden, and asks, while many smoked fish specialists use traditional smoking chimneys to rack up fish like haddock, how do they smoke products such as sausages, crisps and cheese?

Monroe

Great ITV medical dramas are few and far between, so considering how watchable this series has been, let's hope a third is in the pipeline. Alas, this is the last in the current series, and there's no shortage of drama for the Gabriel and the team. He throws a stag party for Nick at his flat, joined by Gillespie, Bradley and Jill, but the celebrations are cut short when a traffic accident brings a slew of new natients to St Matthew's The cast includes Sarah Parish, Tom Riley and Neil Pearson

Tuesday

leston's Fantastical Food

Channel 4, 9pm
Heston Blumenthal is back, and once more he'll be tapping into his youth for inspiration. He'll be hoping to bring back the wonder and excitement of

childhood food memories and flavours on a monumental scale by super-sizing all manner of treats. The world's biggest 99 Flake and a record-breaking bag of Hula Hoops are on the menu. First up however is the good old breakfast, and he's not doing things by half. Aside from the world's largest boiled egg, he wants to dish up a massive bowl of cereal and the mother of all full Englishes.

Wednesday Dallas

Channel 5, 9pm

Back in the day, Southfork Ranch may have been owned by oil tycoons, but strangely they could only afford one phone and wire coat hangers. If only JR, Bobby and the rest of the squabbling Ewings knew they were sitting on a bubbling reservoir of black liquid gold, they could have splashed out a bit.
Alas, this is the last in the current series, but
there's no shortage of drama following Rebecca's
violent confrontation with Tommy. She tries to forget her problems as she joins the rest of the Ewings at Bobby's bedside in hospital.

Meanwhile, Vicente Cano is plagued by
Federal agents just as he is preparing to
give Cliff Barnes the Southfork deeds and the South American rights to Christopher's methane company

Brazil with Michael Palin

BBC1, 9pm Actor Michael Palin is like a dog with a bone at the moment. He's determined to see every corner o Brazil, and as we reach the third Brazil with Michael Palin, Wedne

episode of his fascinating travelogue, it's clear he's episoue of his accinating travelegue, its clear hes not willing to leave any stone unturned. He's en route to Rio, one of the world's greatest cities, but stops off in the mineral-rich state of Minas Gerais to visit an old gold mine once owned by the British, before going to see one of the area's vast opencast iron ore mines – something which is fuelling Brazil's economy. It's then on to Rio De Janeiro, a place which he learns is suffering greatly from armed drug gangs controlling the shanty towns.

Emmerdale at 40

ITV1, 8.30pm
To mark Emmerdale's 40th birthday, there were two weddings in the village. The first bride, Katie, ended up wearing her wedding cake, while the second, Chas, d a runner from her own reception. For anywhere else, that would be considered something of a disaster but as this look

back over Emmerdale's history proves, the villagers are used to big days that don't exactly go to plan. Here, we get to reminisce about the time Jimmy and Nicola had to dash to make it to the church on time

Friday

Derren Brown: Fear and Faith Channel 4, 9pm

Like Derren Brown or not, you can't deny the man has a little bit of genius in him. He's been wowing audiences for years now, and a master of his game, his tricks and mind manipulations are still the best-kept secret in entertainment. For his next trick, in another two-parter, the showman will attempt to remove people's experience of fear through the use of a powerful new drug. Yes, it's another trick that initially we'll all roll our eyes at and wait with bated breath to see what comes of it But without a doubt we'll be thoroughly transfixed to the telly by the end of the performance, as, whatever Brown claims to be, he does put on a bloomin' good show.

Attenborough's Ark: Natural World Special BBC2, 9pm

No qualms about it, Sir David Attenborough is the kind of figurehead that will never need an introduction, his name now synonymous with some of the most weird and wonderful inhabitants of the animal kingdom. And yet the veteran broadcaster still doesn't show any signs of slowing the pace anytime soon – not bad going for a man in his mid-eighties. Well, it's been a short while since he last graced our screens, so he's back - this time, discussing the 10 most endangered animals from around the globe that he'd most like to save from extinction. First up, He explains about Darwin's frog, so special because it's the only frog in the world where the male gives birth to its young.

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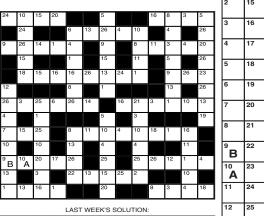
What's On!

Brain Gym

No.193

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



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 $\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{X} & \mathbf{\hat{Q}} & \mathbf{\hat{R}} & \mathbf{\hat{I}} & \mathbf{\hat{O}} & \mathbf{\hat{I}} & \mathbf{\hat{O}} & \mathbf{\hat{I}} & \mathbf{\hat{M}} & \mathbf{\hat{P}} & \mathbf{\hat{B}} & \mathbf{\hat{I}} & \mathbf{\hat{Y}} & \mathbf{\hat{I}}^{2} \mathbf{\hat{V}} & \mathbf{\hat{C}} \end{bmatrix}$

L G W J S E Z D K F T N



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2. Runner begins skil-

a change! (7)

if workers were so weary! (4,5)

10. Late tenders? (5,6)

11. Give short change.

it's a mistake of

14. A monkish upper-

19. Wines blended for

strength (5)
21. Run around the ves

sorts (9)

cut? (7) 16. Noted and objected (6)

6. Finishes - a sentence, perhaps

(4,1,4,2)7. Trade died perhaps

fully (3) 3. It's for putting on colour (5) 4. Have prospects? (6) 5. Salary? Spend it for

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

- They should get what's coming to
- what's coming to them (9)
 8. A custom, somewhat abused (3)
 9. Only a personal impression, but admissible as evidence (11)
 11. Fundamental shifting in cargo (7)
 12. Extort in precise fashion (5)
 13. Set out and consumed what's left

- sumed what's left 15. He won't buy the
- (6) 17. Take slight action
- (5) 18. Having poor taste
- (7)
 20. Cautiously asking why the plumbing is wrong (8,3)
 22. Ivan has a novel need for this garden tool (3)
 23. Women tend to
- alter a permanent income (9)

Quick Clues:

1 Not hurt (9)

- 8. Watch (3) 9. Hopeful (11) 11. Gather (7)
- 12. Exhaust (5) 13. Fairness (6)
- 15. Feast (6) 17. Comprehend (5) 18. Conceited person
- 20. Fickleness (11)
- 22. Fuss (3) 23. Protracted (9)

sel (3)

- 2. Woman in religious
- Cordial (6) 5. Lessen (7)
- 6. Disgrace (11)
 7. Contingent (9)
 10. Estimate (11)
 11. Parson (9)

- 14. Characteristic (7)
- 16. Flag (6) 19. Extravagant (5) 21. Is able (3)

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that					9	2		7	
every column, every row and			1		3		9		6
each of the 3x3 boxes contains		8	9						1
all the digits from 1 to 9.	4	6					2		7
LAST WEEK'S			7		8		6		
SOLUTIONS >	8		5			3		9	4
5 1 6 9 8 3 2 4 7 7 8 3 4 5 2 9 1 6 6 3 8 7 9 4 1 5 2	1					6		3	
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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Ideals; 8 Rustle; 10 Equator; 11 Terse; 12 Sash; 13 Smart; 17 Berth; 18 Rhea; 22 Later; 23 Offence; 24 Remand; 25 Dealer. Down: 1 Disease; 2 Request; 3 Cloth; 4 Nurture; 5 Stern; 6 Repel; 9 Cremation; 14 Bearing; 15 Shingle; 16 Careers; 19 Alarm; 20 Stamp; 21 After. OUICK - Across: 7 Droops; 8 Gather; 10 Regular; 11 Tinge; 12 Save; 13 Rival; 17 State; 18 Stye; 22 Raise; 23 Curtali; 24 Filmsy; 25 Flagon. Down: 1 Address; 2 Forgive; 3 Spill; 4 Partial; 5 Shine; 6 Greet; 9 Armistice; 14 Atheist; 15 Strange; 16 Telling; 19 Craft; 20 Rigid; 21 Frill.

Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question

LAST WEEK'S (A SOLUTION:
The letter
represented by
the question
mark is C. Suitce
satchel, rucksack
types of bag.

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Home of Property In people with property In people with property

The top property guide for Dudley, Halesowen, Stourbridge, Kidderminster

Buy now – move in for Christmas

FESTIVE fun in a brand new home in the Black Country could be on the cards for buyers who have the presence of mind to act now. Selected properties at Heritage Gardens in Tipton and Chestnut Walk in Bilston are almost ready to move into.

almost ready to move into.
And as a 'gift' to customers, awardwinning Redrow is offering incentives
to help get people moving including
part exchange, Mastermove and 95 per
cent mortgages through the NewBuy
initiative. Those who wrap up the purchase of a new home before Christmas
will receive an added present in the
shape of having the stamp duty paid by
Redrow.
Pauline Turnbull sales director for

Redrow.
Pauline Turnbull, sales director for Redrow Homes (Midlands), commented: "The festive season may only be weeks away, but there's still time for families to move in time for Christmas. In fact, even those with an existing property to sell could be unlocking the door to a brand new home before they've opened the first door on their advent calendar thanks to part exchange. Put simply, we will buy their old home from them so that they can

"Alternatively, with our Mastermove service we will enlist the help of a tried and tested local agent to sell the cus-tomer's home. There's even the chance

tomer's home. There's even the chance to own one of our stylish new homes with a five per cent deposit and 95 per cent mortgage with NewBuy."

Between them, Heritage Gardens and Chestnut Walk offer a good choice of three and four-bedroom homes, with prices from £164,995. Open plan kitchen and dining rooms in the homes make the perfect setting for a festive family feast.

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Catalogue

Opportunities

hob, microwave and a fridge freezer big fridge freezer big enough for the turkey. There are also tall cab-inets and extra wide drawers that offer a stylish storage solu-tion for any extra mince pies. Pauline said: "The bedrooms in our

bedrooms in our homes are all well pro-portioned so for those on Santa's 'nice list' there'll be no need to worry about where to

keep presents on Boxing Day and beyond. beyond. And for little ones who are concerned Santa won't know they have moved in the run up to Christmas – our sales consultants will make sure the elves know."

elves know."
Visit Heritage Gardens in Upper Church Lane, Tipton, or Chestnut Walk in Dudley Street in Bilston, where the show homes are open daily from 10am to 5.30pm.
For the latest sales information at Heritage Gardens call 01204 770850 or see www.redrow.co.uk/heritage For Chestnut Walk, call 01902 276900 or see www.redrow.co.uk/chestnut



Plan ahead for festive move – the Redrow show homes at Heritage Gardens, where some of the prop-erties will be ready to move into in time for Christmas

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am, And A Hew Minutes Durie From Homely Hogus Hain Saanus, is His Hed Mid Terraced Property With Parking For 2 Cars, Two Double Bedrooms Single Bedroom, Large Fitted Kitchen/Dining Area, Spacious Lounge, House In With Shower, Small Rear Ganden, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating.



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thed mid terraced house, comprising of: INV ns, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Cosy Lounge, Gas Heating, Double Glazing, Bathroom with Small Rear Garden, Parking Space to Front

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tuated In This Popular Residential Area, Is This Second Floor Apart hich Overlooks The Canal And Has Its Own Balcony, Comprising Of driborns, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom With Sh cess To Balcony From The Master Bedroom, Gas Central He Judie Glazing, Allocated Parking, Well Worth An Inspection

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ROWLEY REGIS, MILDRED WAY

utifully Presented And Located In A Quiet Road, Is This urnished Open Plan Bungalow, Brietly Comprising Of: One Iroom With Fitted Wardrobes, House Bathroom With Shower, ed Kitchen With Washing Machine And Oven, Part Double Glaries Company Low Michinepage Rear Cardien Divineyary Parking

£495 PCM



HALESOWEN. MANOR LANE

A furnished flat above shop, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Large Fitted Kitchen, Doub Bedroom, Shower Room, Secure Parking



ill town and local train station is this unturnisned this inuo at, comprising of: Electric Storage Heating, Large Living oom, Fitted Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Bathroom with hower, Communal Gardens, Allocated Parking.



ROWLEY REGIS. WINCHESTER CLOSE

A very well presented, unfurnished first floor apartment, close to the M5 J2, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Double Glazing, Bathroom with Shower, Parking Space and Parking Area for Visitors, Communal gardens



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A capital plan for Nissan's Combi van



The NV200 could save taxi drivers cash and reduce CO2 emissions

car maker Nissan aims to clean up in the capital.

to clean up in the capital. The company's NV200 - currently sold as a van or passenger-carrying 'combi' model - is a front-runner in the race to replace the aging 'black cab'. It already serves as a tax in two other capital cities and Nissan has previous experience of London cabs, as it made the diesel engines for a whole generation of the iconic vehicles. Its ation of the iconic vehicles. Its European design centre is also

European design centre is also based in London.

The specially modified (to meet taxi licensing regulations) NV200 should go down well with drivers because of its average 53mpg which, according to Nissan, could save each cabbie up to £700 a year. But it would also be a breath of fresh air for

tonnes of CO2 emissions and 20 tonnes of diesel particulates.

While the vehicle has won a number of industry awards as a van, it's also a value for more choice as a well-equipped people carrier with top spec models for a £20.000.

a £20,000.

The flagship model has seven seats, with the centre and rear rows capable of being folded down to juggle between the needs of passengers and cargo like rivals such as the VW

Touran. The large side windows with darkened 'privacy glass' are the main visual clue to the Combi's main visual clue to the Combi's identity. Inside, it's well-equipped and light and agile to drive. In spite of its van alterego, the NV200 is actually based on a car platform developed jointly by Nissan and Renault which contributes to its car-like driving characteristics. Its rela-

tively low floor (to enable easy loading and more cargo room in the van version) are a bonus feature for passengers, as are the two large sliding doors which make for easy access, which make for easy access, parking in the confines of a busy

car park.

There is, of course, Nissan's now familiar rear camera and extra assistance from the power steering at low speeds.

Smoothly

Smoothly

The power comes from a 1.5 litre turbo diesel (based on Renault's familiar 1.5dCi) with 89PS of power, which doesn't sound a lot for a vehicle of this size, but it's 200NM of torque moves it along smoothly and with plenty of flexibility for relaxed driving without too much gearshifting.

Nissan have the balance between everyday performance and economy just about right —

as indistrated by the 55mpg average and the relatively low 138g/km of CO2 emissions. As a point of interest, that compares to 240g/km for the current black cab so you can see why it's likely to find favour with drivers and environmentalists.

The driving position is quite high, for good visibility, but otherwise the NV200 doesn't feel

erwise the NV200 doesn't feel any bigger than the average hatchback.

The steering is light, and the gear lever, in its raised position on the centre console, falls readily to hand.

On the SE4 model test of the

On the SE+ model tested the On the SE+ model tested the console also included the SatNav screen, which doubles as the rear view camera screen as soon as you engage reverse.

The Combi range starts at £17,293 for the five-seater model, rising to £20,173 for the flagship SE+ seven-seater tested



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Fuel consumption figures for the new CR-V Range in mpg (I/100km): Urban 28.0 - 43.5 (10.1 - 6.5),Extra Urban 43.5 - 55.4 (6.5 - 5.1), Combined 36.7 - 50.4 (7.7 - 5.6). CO, emissions: 180 - 149 g/km.

New CR-V range from £21,395 On The Road. Model shown for illustrative purposes: CR-V 2.01-VTEC EX Manual in Passion Red pearl at £29,400 On The Road including metallic paint

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61 Reg

09 Reg

11 Reg

60 Req

60 Reg

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Call: 08430 223040 or visit: www.brindleyhonda.co.uk Calls charged at local rate. Fuel consumption figures for the Jazz 1.4 i-VTEC Si Manual in mpg (I/100km): Urban 42.2 (6.7), Extra Urban 57.7 (4.9), Combined 50.4 (5.6). CO2 emissions: 129g/km.

Model shown: Jazz 1.4-VTEC slin White Ordni Pearl at £15,000 On The Road. Terms and Conditions: New retail Jazz Si registrations from 19 September 2012 to 31 December 2012. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. Honda Aspirations (PCP):£159 per month example shown based on Jazz 1.45 Manual in metallic paint with 3 years 0% APR with 27% deposit. Annual mitted get 10,000. Excess milaege advance 3 per mile. Tow do not have to pay the final Payment If you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage of 10,000 has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in cretain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Pic. 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 80Y.

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CHRONICLE MOTORING **Fascination with the first** sighting of the new Mokka

of Hamburg to swap drivers on the launch of Vauxhall's new Mokka than the couple in an Opel parked ahead of us got out and started towards our car.

out and started towards our car.

Minutes before, they'd passed us (both cars 'enjoying' the lack of a speed limit on this stretch of motorway) and were clearly fascinated with their first sight of the Mokka, especially as ours carried Vauxhall badges, not the lightning flash of the Opel brand, German sister to the British machines with a Luton base.

Turned out the couple, just into retirement, had both worked for Opel at its HQ and wanted a look at the newcomer. They liked it and may already have added the Mokka to the list of possible Opels for consideration at car change time. With limbs less supple than in younger days, a tallish car like the Mokka

ees) it isn't going to catch the eye of passing motorists. Inside, this Korean built but German designed machine, looks rather severe and sensible in a typically Teutonic manner, but very

Promising start

Priced from £15,995, it comes with the choice of two petrol engines (1.4 and 1.6 litres) and a 1.7 litre diesel, with the latter likely to take more than half the sales in the UK. You can order your Mokka with all-wheel drive, the rears kicking in automatically when the front tyres start to lose traction, perhaps on the wet grass of a temporary car park or on a snowy drive to work. Approaching half of all British buyers are expected to take the all-wheel-drive route.

What engine drives those wheels depends on the buyer's needs and depth of pocket and, with the evidence of my ears, how much he or she values a quiet cockpit. The diesel Mokka, tried first, was never less than gruff (at a British motorway cruise) but ask it to accelerate from any speed and gruff turns to an irritating growl. It was enough to make me keen to try a petrol model as soon as possible.

Ah! That's better was my instant reaction. Because it's got petrol in its veins, the engine needs to be worked harder than the diesel but it stayed (much) quieter all the same. Mum might now hear the pleas of her little angels in the backseats about stopping for a burger.

Namecheck: Why Mokka? The best answer from the Vauxhall brass involved an association with mocha coffee, a caffel latte variant with added chocolate. But they really weren't sure.

Vauxhall is green with pride over their Corsa



The new Corsa 1.3 CDTi EcoFlex will be greener than any Vauxhall apart from the Ampera

VAUXHALL has announced a new variant of the Corsa with lower CO2 emissions than any production by the company except the

Producing just 88g/km of carbon dioxide in three-door form, the latest Corsa 1.3 CDTi EcoFlex's figures are 26 per cent lower than those of the first Corsa EcoFlex five years

Peak combined fuel consumption for the new model is Peak combined fuel consumption for the new model is 85.6mpg, again for the lighter three-door model. A five-door version is available with efficiency statistics of 89g/km and 83.1mpg.

The three-door represents a 6g/km and 2.4mpg improvement over the 2011 version of the same car.

All the improvements have come through small upgrades within the progree circuit.

within the engine circuit.

Power and torque from the diesel engine stand at 94bhp and 140lb/ft, the latter of which is available in the ideal rev range, from 1,750 to 3,250rpm.

Top speed is 109mph and 0-62mph takes 12.3 seconds.

The wider Corsa range should now benefit from a more comfortable ride at low speeds, especially around town.

The suspension and damping characteristics have been altered to increase the car's appeal in its natural environment.

ment.
All models are available to order now.

within the engine circuit.

would ease their entry and exit. Building it taller will help with putting much younger passengers on board too, as mum or dad leans in to belt the little 'uns into their seats.

into their seats.

And ages in between might find the added space of this small SUV fits their life well. Thousands more motorists all over Europe are finding SUVs the answer these days, turning this part of the car market into a profitable playround for the makers of everything from the Skoda Yeti to Nissan Duke.

Both are formidable competition for Vauxhall's first entry into this healthily expanding sector. At first glance it looks as though the Mokka is off to a promising start. It looks neat and tidy, even if (unlike the car-spotting ex-Opel employ-







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Stourbridge Motor House Stourbridge 01384 447970



Dfficial Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excluding Ampera): Urban: 14.4 (19.6) · 67.3 (4.2). Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1). Combined: 20.6 (13.7) - 80.7 (3.5). CO2 emissions: 324 - 94g/km.

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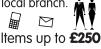
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SPORT

League ponders change

BIRMINGHAM LEAGUE cricket could be set for a new format next summer

format next summer.

The league is weighing up a change in playing regulations that would see sides play a number of games on a 50-over win or lose basis while the remaining matches would be played under the current rules which factor in winning and losing draws.

The format has proved a

The format has proved a success in the Essex and Southern Premier Leagues.

Further talks are planned with club officials at a Birmingham League cricket sub-committee meeting on

committee meeting on Monday.

The format would see the first five and last six games of the season played over 50-overs, with bowlers restricted to a maximum of 10 overs, and the 11 fixtures in between played under current league rules. Each side will play each other once under both formats.

"The idea has got some

under both formats.
"The idea has got some legs," said Birmingham League general manager Nick Archer. "It has been implemented by two or three other Premier Leagues elsewhere in the country in the last few years.
"At a recent meeting with players and cantains from players and cantains from

That a recent meeting with players and captains from Premier and Division One teams there was a lot of enthusiasm for the idea. They were the ones who

They were the ones who broached the subject.

"There are still a few issues to be sorted out such as a points system and whether to introduce power-

plays.
"If the clubs decide they want to try a new format then I think we need to look at it on a trial basis over a couple of years. I don't think you can gauge anything over a single season, especially if we have weather similar to last summer.

Catalano eyes first UK success

IT COULD be all change at the top when the women's snooker circuit descends on

snooker circuit descends on Swindon on Saturday. Dudley's world No.2 Maria Catalano, who plays in the West Midland Snooker League, has been installed as favourite to claim her first UK Champi-onship at Jesters Snooker Hall.

Hall. Catalano, still smarting from a 3-0 defeat by Hong Kong's Ng On Yee in the final of the Northern Championship in September, could snatch the No.1 spot from another Dudley player, the absent Reanne Evans.



Baggies midfielder Youssouf Mulumbu dives in to tackle Ben Arfa



Romelu Lukaku shoots as Davide Santon closes in Garteh McAuley challenges Shola Ameobi



Baggies left reeling from late body blow

Newcastle 2 Albion 1

FOR the second week running Steve Clarke was left to pick his Albion players up off the floor after another late heartbreak.

Defeat at Newcastle in the third minute of stoppage time was tantamount to day-light robbery as Papiss Cisse grabbed a winner for the hosts that he knew little about.

And the latest cruel blow for Clarke and Co came just eight days after a last-gasp, and equally harsh, loss at home to Manches-

ter City.

If Edin Dzeko's winner for City at The Hawthorns was a little telegraphed, Cisse's 93rd-minute goal at St James' Park was a total bolt from the blue.

Albion never saw the winner coming. And neither did Cisse, who felt Sammy Ameobi's late effort deflect off his back and watched in delight as it flew past a helpless Ben Foster to seal a barely believable win for Alan Pardew's men. Alan Pardew's men.

Inquest

The Magpies had dodged a bullet. Albion had been kicked in the guts. Again.

Lightening striking twice in two weekends will mean an inevitable inquest among Baggies coaches, players and fans as they begin the countdown to their return to action against Southampton next Monday. Vet the next merturn behald be being and

Yet the post mortem should be brief and the conclusion should be clear. On Tyne-

the conclusion should be clear. On Tyneside, Steve Clarke's men were simply the victims of a major injustice.

They were just about second best before half-time and, despite creating two fine chances, found themselves behind at half-

way.
But their second-half performance was good enough to win most games with Romelu Lukaku bouncing back from his two earlier misses to head them level during a spell of total dominance.



Baggies front-runner Romelu Lukaku celebrates after equalising at St James' Park

When Cisse attempted to dodge Ameobi's angled shot and felt it flick off his body and past Foster, his was a look of disbellef. Clarke bore an expression of incredulity. And little wonder after seeing his team lead left the work of the control of

last season's Premier League surprise package a merry dance for much of the second half. A draw would have been hard

second nair. A draw would nake been nar on Albion. Defeat was agonising. It was the hosts who had the first real chance of the game when Shola Ameobi found space on the right and delivered a fine cross to the far post, where Demba Ba sent a header just wide.

And Foster had to be alert in Albion's goal to palm away a 25-yard effort from Davide

Santon after the Baggies half-cleared a

corner.

But it was the visitors who should have gone ahead midway through the half against the run of play when James Morrison displayed composure on the edge of a crowded Baggies penalty area to feed Graham Dorrans and spark a counter-attack. Dorrans raced away and slid a pass to Lukaku, who was denied by Tim Krul's excellent save.

The hosts had dominated possession for much of the opening half, but it was a 'route one' attack that brought them the opening goal as the Baggies failed to deal with a rudimentary goal-kick.

Gareth McAuley challenged with Ameobi for Krul's clearance but could only manage a flick-on for Ba, who produced an emphatic

tinish past Foster.

Albion were on the back-foot but they should have levelled before the break with Lukaku again thwarted by Krul.

This time the big Belgian should have done better, latching onto Youssouf Mulumbu's clever through-ball and racing clear, only to send a weak effort too close to Krul.

The Baggies had been gazard have a

Krul.

The Baggies had been second best for much of the first half despite carving out two fine chances, but Albion began the second period in positive fashion and had the ball in the net within two minutes when Lukaku deflected home Mulumbu's cross-shot, only to be flagged for offside.

There were no such worries eight minutes later as the Belgian striker played his part in an excellent move before finishing it.

Snatched

The big targetman headed Mulumbu's raking crossfield pass into the path of Zoltan Gera then peeled away to the far post to head home the Hungarian's floated cross and send the 1,400 travelling fans into raptures.

tures.

Lukaku lasted for just another 10 minutes before making way for Long, but his work for the day was done with time to spare. Albion could have snatched a second goal when Gera's free-kick from the left flew inches away from the onrushing McAulov. McAuley.

McAuley.
They had an even better chance when Odemwingie raced down the right and crossed to the near post, where Long saw his shot smothered by Krul.
But the final sting in the tail came deep into stoppage time when Cisse tried to evade substitute Sammy Ameobi's effort and somehow left Clarke needing pick his chin off the floor again.
If lest week was cruel this was beart.

If last week was cruel, this was heart-

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Double delight for Haycock

Redditch Ladies 1
Halas Ladies 3
TRACEY HAYCOCK struck
twice to help fire Halas to an
away-day success.
Early pressure from the
hosts led to them taking the
lead but Halas hit back
through Haycock
Erin Hickin put Halas in
front before half-time and
Haycock sealed the win after

Haycock sealed the win after

whe break.

Halas Hawks U15 Girls 4

Wyre Forest Phoenix Girls 0

Halas turned on the style
to ease to victory on home
soil.

soil.
Two-goal Amy Blakemore
led the victory charge with
Megan Hipkiss and Kayleigh
Pomfret also scoring.
Gornal Athletic Minor 1
Halas Hawks 19's East 2
Hawks overturned a halftime deficit to cliam the
spoils at Gornal.
Man of the match Connor
Chater levelled for Hawks

Man of the match Connor Chater levelled for Hawks with James Knight's freekick securing the win.

Halas Hawks West U10s 1

Dudley Town 0

Halas are still unbeaten this season after a hardfought victory over a resilient Dudley Town.

The only goal came from man of the match Brodie Crumpton.

Halas Hawks

Gornal Athletic U11s 0 Halas Hawks West U11s 3

Hawks soared to the top of Division Three after goals from Harvin Suthi, Casey Collins and Burhaan Siddiqi saw off Gornal. Gornal Colts 5

Gornal Colts 5
Halas Hawks U14s 5
Halas had to settle for a share of the spouls following a 10-goal thriller.
Connor Fisher kick-started the goal feast when he fired Hawks in front after

he fired Hawks in front after a minute.

Hawks other goals were scored by Jake Macdonald, player of the match Shane Billingham, Cameron Milne and a second for Fisher.

Halas Hawks U15s 6

Ettingshall Jrs 1

A lively match saw Halas lead 2-0 at half-time thanks to strikes from Dominic Hipkiss and Liam Holmes.

The home team stepped up the temp after the break

up the temp after the break with further goals from Adam Higginson, Deon Patel and Jack Guest (2). Halas Hawks U16s 2

Oldswinford 1

The U16s came from behind to beat Oldswinford behind to beat Oldswinford 2-1 with goals from Dan Wil-letts and Kane Campbell. Halas Hawks West U9s 1 Stourbridge Glassboys 2 A goal from William Smith failed to save Hawks slip-ping to a home defeat.

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Heartbreak Late blow leaves Albion reeling



All change? Birmingham League considers new format

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Pearson dishes out the plaudits

CHAIRMAN Nigel Pearson has praised everyone con-nected with Dudley Hea-

has praised everyone connected with Dudley Heathens – despite their play-off
final hearthreak last week.

The former Cradley club
missed out on National
League glory by a single
point under controversial
circumstances – but Pearson
has still expressed his gratitude to those who have
helped them make 2012 so
memorable.

"I'd just like to praise
everyone connected with the
club," he said. "First of all
every single rider who has
represented us this year.
They have worn the race
jacket with pride. They
know what it means to wear
the hammer.

"I think Will (Pottinger)
and Jan O (Pedersen) have
formed a good partnership
in the management team.
Jan O has worked well with
the youngsters in bringing
them on, and Will has done a
good job with tactics.

"I want to praise all the

good job with tactics.

"I want to praise all the track staff at Wolverhampton Speedway. They give up their time and it's very much

their time and it's very much appreciated.
"Wolverhampton Speed-way as much as anyone have played their part in bringing Heathens back on track.
"The Supporters' Club, have been a massive support

have been a massive support and we also have to say

and we also have to say thank you to our main team sponsors and our club partners.
"But above all that, the supporters are fantastic.
"We owe it to them to make the right choices for the future. Our fans have turned out in massive numbers."
There has been much talk

There has been much talk about Heathens making the step up to the Premier

League.

However, Pearson admits they are still undecided.

He said: "We are going to see what the BSPA AGM holds. If we are to consider Premier League membership we need to be sure that it's financially viable."

Heathens face fans

DUDLEY HEATHENS fans have an opportunity to quiz the powers that be next

week.
Supporters can offer their views on the way forward for the club and put questions to chairman Nigel Pearson and co-promoters Van Straaten and Gary Patchett at a fans' forum at Cradley Heath Liberal Club on Thursday, November 8.

Three apiece for Greaves and Shackleton

OHHC 1st XI 6 Redditch 2

OLD Halesonians firsts managed to ease to a 6-2 win despite not being at their best. Hales had the chance to score plenty more, but will be pleased to have taken the three points on a cold Saturday afternoon.

Hales opened the scoring when Josh Randhawa scored his first goal of the season, but the home team struggled to capitalise on their chances early on.

italise on their chances early on.

A penalty corner was saved on the line by Paul Woodall, to keep the score 1-0. Just before the break, Hales doubled their lead when Tom Bulteel found Tom Bolton in the 'D', who slapped the ball past the Redditch

The second half saw Hales dominate possession, and despite a few scares defending

they controlled the game. Captain Chris Whiley scored twice in quick succession then Bulteel scored from a penalty corner after Doug Houghton was tripped in the 'D'. Redditch grabbed a goal back before Paul Woodall scored to take the result beyond doubt and a consolation from Redditch took

the score to 6-2.
Aldridge & Walsall 4 OHHC 2nd XI 0

Aldridge & Walsall 4 OHHC 2nd XI 0
Old Halesonians 2nd XI's woes continued as they suffered a deserved four-goal defeat at Aldridge & Walsall. Hales once again struggled to settle and found themselves two down early on through poor defensive play and a short corner routine, setting the

tempo for the game. Walsall continued to dominate as Hales struggled to string a set of passes together, allowing the opposition to dominate large periods of the half.

Despite an encouraging team talk from coach Jake Brooke, Hales were dealt with a sucker punch as their opponents increased their lead within minutes of the re-start, as an unfortunate deflection made its way straight onto the stick of a Walsall forward on the far post.

The goal took the stuffing out of the visitors, and a final Walsall goal from a short corner sealed a deserved win for the hosts.

Wolverhampton 0 OHHC 3rd XI 8

OHHC 3rd XI travelled to RAF Cosford in hat was anticipated as a tough fixture. After an even first 20 minutes, Ash

Greaves opened the scoring from close range and went on to complete his hat-trick in the first half while also assisting a goal for Damian Shackleton.

After a 4-0 half-time, Hales added four more after the break. Shackleton completed his hat-trick before Chris Hardy and Connor Reid finished off the scoring.

OHHC Ladies 1st XI & Harborne Ladies 5th XI 1

The Old Hales Ladies 1st XI continued their solid start to the season with a 6-1 thrashing of Harborne. Hales dominated, with a hat-trick for Annie Smith. Bernie O'Grady grabbed a brace for herself, with Laura Bird taking the tally to six.

Other Results: OHHC 4th XI 3 Harborne 5th XI 1; OHHC 5th XI 2 Solihull Blossomfield 4th XI 5.

Mistake gifts cup victory

Halesowen Town 0
Worksop Town 1
HALESOWEN proved more than a match for higher league Worksop but failed to make the draw for the next round of the FA Trophy following a defensive blunder.
Ben Haseley went close for the Yeltz after just five minutes by outpacing Worksop central defenders Kern Miller and Adie Hawes but veteran Worksop goalkeeper Paul Bastock just managed to push away for a corner.
With Halesowen more than holding their own, Jean-Michel Gueyes found himself free in the penalty area but he rushed his final attempt in the 32nd minute. Halesowen's good work was undone in the 35th minute when a misunderstanding gifted the belowpar Tigers the solitary winning goal.
Under no pressure, central defender Sam Brooks headed the ball back past his goalkeeper Paul Evans as he came off his line, leaving Leon Mettam all alone with the simplest task of tapping into an empty net. The Northern Premier

alone with the simplest task of tapping into an empty net. The Northern Premier League visitors missed their influential loan striker Tom Denton but started the second half brighter. However, it was Bastock who rescued Worksop again with a fine blocking save after Haseley turned his marker in the 54th minute. The Yeltz stuck to their game-plan and created two further good chances to force a replay.

Bastock turned away

force a replay.

Bastock turned away
Gavin Winsper's 64th
minute shot and made fine
reflex save to keep out
Haseley's diving header
from a Gueyes cross.

Bastock's defence then
soaked up further late pressure as Halesowen forced
two injury time corners. turned away

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BAGGIES BACKED OUNCE BACK

ALBION keeper Ben Foster insists morale remians intact as they prepare for Monday night's Hawthorns clash with Southampton.

The Baggies' bright start to the season has been dented by back-to-back defeats at the hands of Manchester City and

by back-to-back defeats at the hands of Manchester City and Newcastle.

Both games have concluded with Albion's opponents bagging underserved stoppage time winner, but Foster believes Albion's character shone thrrough at St James' Park on Sunday and will do so against the Saints.

Park on Sunday and will do so
"We showed that we have
spirit," said Foster. "We
deserved to get at least a
point if not three against
Manchester City and to
bounce back as we did at
Newcastle, against a very
good team, shows that it
won't get us down.
"We will keep on playing
the way we know we can.
"The gaffer said in the
changing rooms that as long
as we keep on playing like
that we will win a lot more
games than we lose.
"And he is damn right.

"And he is damn right.

Hustled

"We've got to look to the next game now and Southampton on Monday night is a game we would expect to get something from with the way we've been playing. "We played really well against City and then again at Newcastle and

at Newcastle and Southampton will know

Southampton will know they've been in a game."

Boss Steve Clarke is backing his side to bounce back from the defeats and he called on Albion to make Southampton feel their frustration on Monday.

"We've just got to take all the frustrations of the last two weeks and channel it into the next game," he said.

by Steve Madeley

"We have to try to make sure we get a positive result

there.
"We've now got to dust
ourselves down, look

ourselves down, look forward to the next game and try to take our frustrations out on Southampton. "With a bit more luck, we could have more points than we have. In fact, we should have even more points. To be stuck on 14 points after these last two games is cruel. It's not fair. "But we have to move on." Skipper Chris Brunt is

"But we have to move on."
Skipper Chris Brunt is
targeting a Premier League
comeback against the Saints
after making a successful
return from injury in the
reserves midweek draw with
Reading.
"Fingers crossed I'll be fit
enough to face Southampton," said Brunt, who played
for 61 minutes.
"It's down to the gaffer
and what he thinks, but it
would be nice to get involved
again."

again."
■ Albion have cut prices Anion have cut prices for the televised clash with Southampton to £15 adults, £10 pensioners, under-21s and students and £5 for under-17s.

Unbeaten Hasbury are gunning for glory



Hasbury Rangers Girls Under-15s have their sights set on glory following a flying start to their Stourbridge and District League campaign. Hasbury are second in the table after winning four games out of four to date

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